Profile of the Queen, page 6

THE TIMES

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Suicidal Aslef, by Rodgers

The attitude of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen in the dispute causing the rail strike is suicidal, Mr William Rodgers, one of the joint leaders of the Social Democrats, said. "No sane government will invest in electrification and renewal if a handful of men and a bloody-minded union break agreements and exploit their bargaining power" Page 2

Police hurt in Bristol clashes

Two policemen were injured, one seriously, in two nights of clashes in Bristol between groups of white and black youths. Thirteen black and eight white youths werea arrested and extra police were in the streets. Page 2

Rape decision not Fairbairn's

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, who resigned as Solicitor General for Scotland over the Glasgow rape case, said yesterday that the decision not to prosecute was not taken by him and he had no knowledge of it at the time Back page

Owen leadership move attacked

Several SDP MPs voiced fears that the party might get involved in the damaging contest for the leadership. They were critical of Dr David Owen, who recently said he wanted a contest, and some spoke of a "stop Roy Jenkins" move. Page 2

Schmidt plays down illness

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, played down reports that he had been taken ill at a local SDP party conference on Saturday. He insisted that a formula for financing an unemployment scheme must be found by Wednesday Back page

Ritchie-Calder dies at 75

Lord Ritchie-Calder, the scientist and journalist, died yesterday in Edinburgh, aged 75. Starting as a junior reporter on a local newspaper, he became an international scientific authority and was made a life peer in 1966. A Times obituary will appear tomorrow.

Industry call to cut fuel bill

The steel industry is spearheading renewed demands that the Government should act to cut energy-intensive industries' fuel bills. The steel industry last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil Page 11

CIA tried to hire Bani-Sadr

Agents of the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became president of Iran, according to an account in *The Washington Post* Page 4

UK wins record Far East deal

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Indonesia. The deal, worth £125m, will help in the expansion of an oil refinery Page 6

Masterful Davis earns revenge

Steve Davis won the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at Wembley, when he beat Terry Griffiths 9-5. Davis gained revenge for his defeat by Griffiths in the Lada tournament earlier in the month.

Sydney Friskin, page 15.

Sinai force

The Israeli Cabinet has agreed to the participation of Britain, France, Holland and Italy in the international force which is to police Sinai after it is returned to Egypt on April 26 Page 4

205 arrested in clashes near Gdansk shipyard

By Our Foreign Staff

Fourteen people were injured and 205 arrested when police clashed with youths who tried to storm public buildings in Gdansk, the Polish news agency PAP reported yesterday.

It was the first report of street disturbances this year in Poland, and the worst in Gdansk since martial law was declared on December 13.

The trouble reportedly started on Saturday evening when a group of youths began shouting and distributing anti-state leaflets near the Baltic port's Lenin shipyard. PAP said many people were returning home from work and initially showed little interest in the demonstration.

Police arrived and quickly restored order but the organizers later tried again to stir up trouble in the centre of the city and refused to disperse when ordered by the police, PAP reported. The demonstrators attempted to attack public buildings and behaved aggressively towards the police, who finally chased them from the scene. Eight policemen were among the injured.

By 8 pm the city was calm, the agency said. It described the incidents—which occurred two days before today's introduction of drastic price increases for basic foods and for fuel and electricity—as a serious violation of martial law. PAP said the majority of those arrested were students and secondary school pupils, and their offences were being considered by summary courts.

The agency said that, because of the disturbances, martial law authorities had tightened restrictions in the city, cut off telephone services, banned the use of private cars and extended the curfew by three hours. It now ran from 8 pm to 5 am.

According to the Interior Ministry, the measures were aimed at showing that Polish authorities "are determined to make order and calm reign". The ministry also accused the "irresponsible elements" who provoked the incidents of taking advantage of measures taken by the authorities to ease the restrictions of the state of siege.

Communications from Warsaw have been severed since the military crackdown and Western correspondents are not allowed to travel outside Warsaw. There was no immediate word on why PAP did not report the riot until last night

☐ The Polish authorities were planning to relax some of the stricter martial law restrictions, partly to ease everyday life for the population but also to ensure the smooth running of the economy (Roger Boyes writes in an earlier dispatch from Warsaw).

Further relaxation of travel and curfew hours had been expected to be announced over the next 10 days. Apart from the economic necessity of some of these measures, the Government appears to be motivated by two other considerations. The first is to show a degree of responsiveness to public pressure, as articulated by the Roman Catholic Church, and to improve its image in the West.

It is now evident that many of the Gdansk shipyards—not just the Lenin yard — have been closed for a fortnight, workers having been told to take two weeks holiday.

This partly reflects a dearth of orders but also the real fear that the birthplace of Solidarity would become a rallying point for fresh protests. Go slow protests are, according to unofficial sources, planned in Wroclaw factories and at the Ursus tractor factory in Warsaw.

All Polish newspapers at the weekend bitterly condemned Sunday's United States television show *Let Poland Be Poland* as a grave interference in its domestic affairs.

Second, the Government is creating some policy leverage ahead of the food-price rises. In announcing a degree of relaxation in his speech last Monday, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Military Council, made clear that such concessions would be withdrawn if there was significant unrest over the next month.

Inter city telephone communication is to be restored within 10 days—though all conversations will be subject to censorship—and domestic telegram and business telex services will also be reactivated.

The Polish Government has had to balance the prospect of the Solidarity underground making use of the new telephone links to reorganize, against the tangible damage being done to manufacturing industry.

In the last few months, scarcity of raw materials had become a fixed problem of Polish industry and managers were often forced to telephone or telex contacts throughout the country to obtain, for example, scrap iron or chemicals. Since martial law, this has been impossible and many factories have been paralysed as a result.

Other restrictions to be eased include the blanket ban on unregistered meetings of 10 or more people; weddings and large family gatherings are now permitted without prior notification to the police. All conferences and political meetings (except, of course, party meetings) will remain illegal under martial law.

Foreign correspondents have been told that they will soon be allowed to travel wherever they want in Poland, providing that the Foreign Ministry authorizes their various meetings. It is not clear whether Foreign Ministry officials will have to accompany correspondents on these trips outside the capital.

Anxiety about the effects of food price rises—traditionally a volatile measure in Polish

Continued on back page, col 3

Stars back Solidarity

Spectacular shows how West was one

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

The American Government's contribution to Solidarity Day, a 90-minute television programme entitled *Let Poland be Poland*, which was shown here today, was almost as dull as an East European propaganda film.

The programme could have been called *The Nato Show*. One western leader followed another, intoning support for the Polish people and their struggle for freedom.

President Reagan said that, as a former trade unionist himself, he had special sympathy for the leaders of Solidarity. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, gave the Deutschemark value of the two million parcels which West Germany sent to Poland during the last month of 1981.

President Mitterrand, who decided only at the last minute to take part in the broadcast after initial reservations, urged the West to supply more food aid, noting that France was providing more food to Poland than any other westren country.

Worthy though their messages were, and however much their statements may have been appreciated by the Polish people, they did not make interesting viewing.

The contribution by Frank Sinatra, a song sung in English and Polish called "Ever Homeward" almost came as a welcome relief after the intoning of the American and European spokesmen. So were the brief appearances by Orson Welles reading excerpts from John Donne in a dramatic gravelly voice, and a bearded Henry Fonda quoting from a Communist manifesto.

There were a few poignant moments, such as the Pope's historic visit to Poland in 1979, or a moving statement by Mr Romuald Spasowski, the former Polish Ambassador in Washington who defected to the United States

But all in all the programme makers stung by European criticism that they would trivialize the Polish crisis, seemed to have gone out of their way not to make a schmaltzy Hollywood epic. In so doing, they came up with a programme which was very dry and contained none of the drama of the events which have taken place in Poland during the past two years.

☐ British television viewers saw brief extracts from the programme on news bulletins. ITN showed President Reagan declaring: "We, the people of the free world, stand as one with our Polish brothers and sisters."

Viewers then saw Charlton Heston holding a lighted candle, and part of a message from Mr Spasowski. ITN followed this item with a report on the "rival" programme on President Reagan and American policy put on last night by Polish television.

Describing the programme as "the American propaganda machine in top gear", BBC2 also showed President Reagan expressing solidarity with the Polish people and calling for an end to martial law.

Poland's military-controlled television service broadcast an answer to the American show which included a 65-minute item entitled merely: "Scenario and Production by Ronald Reagan". There was a flattering reference to the President's career followed by a long panel discussion criticizing the American programme.



World champion, 19, skiing in the rain

The new first lady of skiing, 19-year-old Erika Hess of Switzerland, showing extraordinary balance in winning the special slalom on a rain-soaked piste at Schladming, Austria.

Described by her coach as a "nature girl" with strong nerves, Fraülein Hess, took the gold medal yesterday in the first combined downhill and slalom event to be staged.

Erika has been described as a living advertisement for her native country —not to speak of her equipment and sponsors. She comes from a farm near Interlaken in the Alps.

The supreme slalom specialist of the past two seasons, at one point winning 10 out of 11 races, she gave another demonstration of her flawless technique yesterday, clocking the fastest time on the first leg, but taking care on the second, which was run on a chemically-treated course. (Page 16).

Avalanche kills 12 teenagers

Salzburg, Jan 31.—Twelve young West Germans were killed in an avalanche which buried a party of 18 on a ski slope near here today. One other was still missing.

Police said that six youths were rescued unhurt from the avalanche.

The party had been led by an experienced West German skiing instructor, Hermann Tum, who disregarded an avalanche warning, they added.

The group had been following a skiing course on the 1,400 metre (4,600 feet) Elmau mountain, near the village of Werfenweng.

It was made up of students and teachers from a private school in the Bavarian town of Berchtesgaden, near the Austrian border. They came from various parts of West Germany.

The search operation involved more than 140 police, firemen and other rescue workers, equipped with powerful search lights. Police said that dozens of volunteers also joined in, bringing lamps and torches to help light up the scene of the accident.

The rescue was carried out in constant danger of further avalanches, after a day of unseasonably warm weather throughout eastern Austria.

Police reported that the avalanche broke loose shortly after 3 pm (14.00 GMT). The alarm was raised by a member of the school group, who managed to free herself from the snow, and alerted the proprietor of a mountain-top inn. The search carried on long after dark, with searchlights combin in the pitch-dark slopes. The operation was finally called off after seven hours, because of the threat of a new avalanche.

The Elmau is located in the pine-forested Tennen mountain range, in Salzburg province. The area is one of many steep ridges, and is popular with holidaymakers for its picturesoue ski trails.

One person remained missing in the late evening

National strike threat against labour Bill

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Senior leaders of the trade union movement yesterday warned the country of outright opposition, including the use of political strikes, to the Government's proposed labour legislation.

Invoking memories of the unions' opposition to the Heath Government's Industrial Relations Act, the officials, who included general secretaries of the country's three biggest unions, said that they were even prepared to embark on a national strike to defeat the Employment Bill.

They expressed anger particularly at clauses in the Bill which allow for compensation of up to £20,000 for workers who refuse to join a union where there is a closed-shop agreement and for fines of up to £250,000 on unions who are found to be taking "unlawful industrial action".

They predicted that their campaign against the Bill would have the full support of their members despite government predictions that shop-floor resistance to the legislation would be muted.

Moderates, such as Mr Terence Duffy, leader of the engineering union, and Mr William Sirs of the steelmen's union, joined Mr Mostyn Evans, leader of the more militant Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr David Basnett, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, in a display of unity against the Bill on the London Weekend Television programme, *Weekend World*.

They all pledged a similar unity in the union movement to challenge the Bill and claimed that they would succeed in defeating it. All unions are to launch a propaganda campaign to alert their members to what they see as the dangers in the proposed legislation.

The TUC is organizing a special conference of union executives in April to mount opposition to the legislative proposals, which were introduced in the House of Commons last week by Mr Norman Tebbit.

Mr Evans said that the union movement would positively resist the legislation and that he was certainly prepared to see industrial action spreading to a national level if the new laws when enacted, were used against a union in a particular industry.

If action against the legislation was "defined in the choicest terms as being a political strike, then of course obviously it will have to be a political strike", he said.

He added that the clause in the Bill proposing that compensation of up to £20,000 should be available to workers who refuse to join a union where a closed shop exists would lead to the creation of "bounty hunters".

Mr Duffy said he believed that the Government would try to establish case law in an area involving one union and would hope that the rest of the movement would treat that union in isolation or not support it. "I feel, again sadly, that that act by the Government will mean that the whole of the trade union movement could be involved in a national strike," he said.

Asked by Mr Brian Walden, the programme's presenter, whether ordinary trade unionists would be prepared to strike against clauses in the Bill when it was enacted, Mr Duffy replied: "When we request our people to show loyalty to the trade union movement, that loyalty will be forthcoming".

That view had been rejected earlier in the programme by Mr Tebbit who said he thought the legislation would "stick". The mood of workers on the shop floor, he added, was much more realistic than that of their union leaders. Recent experiences had shown that "trade unoin leaders who try to go out on a political crusade are not followed by their members".

Grants veto clause to be dropped

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

The Government has decided to amend the most controversial feature of its second attempt to get new legislation on local government finance through Parliament.

The decision, which will be seen as another defeat for the Treasury, has been taken as a result of opposition from the same alliance of local authority associations and backbench Conservative MPs that ultimately forced Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, to drop his plans to force councils wishing to spend over a central limit to hold referendums.

The Government now accepts that to pass its Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill, now in its Commons committee stage, it will have to amend clause 4, which gives Mr Heseltine new power to withhold grants from councils after the financial year has begun.

The clause, as it stands,

Continued on back page, col 6

Effluent curse of the Sphinx

From Christopher Walker
Cairo, Jan 31

A combination of sewage, air pollution, salt, sun, sand and wind is seriously threatening the Sphinx, the majestic—but now sadly crumbling—monument which has guarded the pyramids at Giza, on the outskirts of Cairo for nearly 5,000 years.

Yesterday, Dr Ahmed Kadri, the chairman of Egypt's official antiquities department told a parliamentary committee that recent restoration work had failed to halt the deterioration of the 239ft long sun god, which has the body of a lion and the face of a human.

At a time when Egypt's economy is facing severe problems, Dr Kadri said that £340,000 was urgently needed for repairs. He suggested the setting up of a fund and pointed out that recent restoration work had been very limited "and in medical terms had only had the effect of a tranquillizer".

The gravity of the problems facing the inscrutable limestone monument have long been a cause for concern among archaeologists. They were brought home dramatically to the Egyptian public last November when the Sphinx's left leg, comprising 120 blocks of stone put there by restorers in Graeco-Roman times, fell off.

Earlier, *Al Ahram* had conducted a vigorous campaign designed to alert the authorities to the danger that without rapid action, the monument erected on the orders of King Khephron, could be lost forever. Among suggestions made for preserving it was the construction of a protective glass bubble to act as a windshield.

Over the centuries the monument has had to be dug out of the encroaching desert sand on three occasions. But its latest troubles are more serious and largely result from the rising water table caused by the lack of any sewage system in the neighbouring hamlet of Nazlet el-Semman.

As a result, the maze of underground passages in the area around the statue have become clogged by effluent. An American research team reported in 1978 that water was seeping into the porous limestone of the body and then evaporating to leave tiny crystals of salt which were making the stone brittle and fragile.

Controversy has surrounded recent attempts to cure the Sphinx's environmental problems, with some Egyptologists claiming that the attempted cures were often worse than the ailments.

In 1980 an attempt to replace blocks was halted after the discovery that one source of the rock weakening had been the use of bad mortar in previous restorations.

In addition, the monument is under constant attack from sandstorms, the vicious extremes of temperature experienced in the desert, and more recently, air pollution from Cairo's traffic.

Bill would curb wives' rights

By Our Political Reporter

The Government is preparing legislation to change the laws on divorce which will reduce the rights of former wives to maintenance payments.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, is anxious to act in the present parliamentary session on the recommendations of the Law Commission for England and Wales, made only last December, and hopes to include the proposals in the Administration of Justice Bill for which time has already been allotted in the government's programme and which will soon be introduced in the Lords.



Lord Hailsham: wants to act soon.

If it turned out not to be possible to include the changes in that Bill, they might have to wait until the next session of Parliament. The Government has accepted the Law Commission's recommendation that the provision in section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 which asks courts to try to make a settlement which enables the parties to enjoy the same standard of life as previously should be ended.

It has also accepted the commission's proposal that the courts should be given power in appropriate cases to dismiss a wife's claim for periodical payments without her consent.

In implementing the changes, the government will be following the commission's recommendation that the law on the financial consequences of divorce should give greater emphasis to the principle that the divorced parties should aim to become self-sufficient and not continue to rely on maintenance from the other spouse.

It said that the courts should give greater weight to a divorced wife's earning capacity and consider more often setting a time limit on maintenance orders where they feel that a wife needs time to readjust to her new situation, but she should not expect to rely on her former husband indefinitely.

Under the new legislation, courts will be able to order a financial "clean break", a once-for-all settlement, in appropriate cases, although the commission recognized that that would be almost impossible where there were young children.

It was pointed out in government circles yesterday that such cases would not be common. The sort of situation envisaged by the commission was a childless marriage which had lasted a comparatively short time and the wife had earning capacity.

The legislation will result in the courts having to give greater overriding priority to the provision of adequate financial support for children.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Licensing of sex shops attacked

Mrs Mary Whitehouse, the campaigner against pornography, has written to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to protest against local authorities getting powers to license sex shops under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, which comes up for its remaining stages in the House of Commons on Wednesday (A Staff Reporter writes).

She said yesterday: "This move is political sharp practice on the part of those permissives in the Home Office who have consistently resisted all attempts to tighten up the obscenity laws.

"The introduction of licensing will inevitably have the opposite effect to what the anxious public expects from it and will make the role of the police quite impossible. I call upon Mr Whitelaw to introduce effective obscenity legislation before this backdoor legalization of pornography takes hold."

Mrs Whitehouse said she would present a petition containing half a million signatures to the Prime Minister at Downing Street tomorrow.

£250,000 stolen from police safe

More than £250,000 in cheques and cash has been stolen from a safe in the offices of the Transport Police at Victoria Station, London.

No force was used to open the safe. Police believe the door was unlocked and the money removed. The disappearance of the cash and cheques, which was to have been evidence in a court case, occurred more than two weeks ago but was disclosed only yesterday.

Poll support for work sharing

Most people with jobs would agree to cut their hours to create work for the unemployed, according to a Gallup Poll published in *The Sunday Telegraph* yesterday. The poll, of 1,792 adults in more than 170 districts, also showed that 70 per cent of the respondents felt the Government should give priority to measures against unemployment rather than inflation.

In the poll, also commissioned for the BBC programme, *Two Nations*, 77 per cent of those in work said people with jobs should be prepared to share work.

Briton shares chess title

John Nunn, the British international grandmaster, has scored a great success in coming equal first with Balashov, the Soviet grandmaster, in the Grandmaster tournament which ended yesterday at Wijk aan Zee, in Harlem (our Chess Correspondent writes).

Nunn started with three wins in succession, beating Sunyé, Timman and Tal, then drawing with Christiansen and Chandler before beating Hort. He lost to Nikolic in round seven but did not lose another game.

He drew with Balashov in the last round, leaving them equal first with 8½ points, followed by Hort (Czechoslovakia) and Van der Wiel (Netherlands) 7½, Hübner (West Germany), Kavalek (US), Nikolic (Yugoslavia), Sosonko (Netherlands) and Tal (USSR), 7, Ree (Netherlands) 6½, Timman (Netherlands) 5½, Christiansen (US) 4½, Sunyé (Brazil) 4, and Chandler (New Zealand) 3½.

Boy accused of rape

A schoolboy, aged 15, is to appear before Camberwell juvenile court, in south London, today accused of raping and robbing a girl aged 19 in Lewisham on January 22 and also raping a girl aged 20, seven days later.

Driver on rape charge

A motorist is to appear before magistrates at Mildenhall, Suffolk, today accused of raping the wife of an American serviceman as she walked home from a party eight days ago.

Beating black ice

A device to warn motorists of black ice on roads is being developed at Nottingham University.

Correction

Tracey Stamp received a nine-month suspended sentence at Newport Crown Court, Gwent, on Friday, not a three-month suspended sentence as stated in the Press Association report published on Saturday.

BR may suspend guaranteed pay in Aslef dispute

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

British Rail, which yesterday took the first steps to stem the rising losses caused by the train drivers' strikes by refusing to pay all but essential maintenance workers, is considering further action to avoid paying wages when no trains are running.

As the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) held its third consecutive Sunday strike, BR told 50,000 workers, who would normally earn £25 at overtime rates for Sunday working, to stay at home. Only 15,000 maintenance men were instructed to report for duty.

The BR board meets tomorrow and may be forced into planning a suspension of the guaranteed weekly wage for its 170,000 workers so that it can avoid paying wages to other staff when Aslef members are holding their two-day mid-week strike.

A final decision on suspension of the guaranteed wage, which could also cause legal difficulties for BR, is said to be some way off. In the meantime, senior railway managers are pinning their hopes for a settlement of the dispute, now in its fourth week, on a successful intervention by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Acas, after failing in other attempts to bring the sides closer together, has proposed a committee of inquiry, which has the backing of BR and the other rail unions but so far has not been approved by Aslef. The dispute is over BR's decision to withhold a 3 per cent pay increase from 20,000 train drivers because Aslef has not agreed to proposals for changes in rostering.

The Aslef executive is due to start meeting this afternoon but may not get around to discussing the inquiry until tomorrow, probably to await the result of the BR board's deliberations. The executive will also have to decide on future strategy but is unlikely to approve extended action or a variation of the tactic of strikes on Sundays followed by stoppages on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

BR is thought to be prepared to let the dispute "ride" for a while in the hope of Acas succeeding in getting the committee of inquiry established. It is possible, although unlikely, that the inquiry could still go ahead even if Aslef declines to give evidence.

The railways have so far lost about £40m as a direct result of the strikes and losses continue to mount at the rate of about £6m each weekday when there are no trains.

The losses raise the possibility of another increase in fares to follow the 9.5 per cent rise last November. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, said then that he hoped to peg fares for 12 months. That may now be in jeopardy and an increase of about 9 per cent in the summer cannot be ruled out.

Mr William Rodgers, one of the leaders of the Social Democratic Party and Secretary of State for Transport in the former Labour government, entered the war of words surrounding the dispute last night when he described Aslef as "bloody-minded". He said: "I have previously avoided any comment on the rail dispute that might make a difficult situation worse. But now it must be said that the present attitude of Aslef is suicidal".

□ Railway guards, all National Union of Railwaymen members based at Brighton and Gillingham, Kent, last night threatened an unofficial strike today, which would cripple commuter services into London (the Press Association reports). Their threat was in protest at being laid off yesterday because of the Aslef strike.

BR's Southern Region said last night that services from Brighton and the Sussex coast to Victoria and London Bridge, and from the Kent coastal towns, would be severely disrupted if the strike took place.

How drivers' leader may stiffen union's resolve

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

British Rail management fears that relations with the striking footplatemen will worsen in the wake of a power struggle in the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef).

A new president, Mr Derek Fullick, aged 53, a driver from the militant Waterloo depot, came to office just before the present strikes began, as a result of an unexpected coup that ousted Mr William Ronksley, the veteran Communist.

In a sudden reversal of Aslef's electoral voting pattern, left and right-wingers joined forces to reject Mr Ronksley, who had been reelected president every year since 1974. Even a fellow Communist, Mr Charles Rodger, from Scotland, who is now vice-president, withdrew his backing.

A senior British Rail source last night predicted that relations with the train drivers would deteriorate even further as a result of the election outcome. "Ronksley was an old-fashioned militant, a railwayman first and a Communist second. Fullick is a politician first and a railwayman second."

Mr Fullick himself vehemently denies any such charge, insisting: "As far as work is concerned, my politics and involvement with the Labour Party are one thing; what I am industrially is another. I am not a member of any way-out groups or bodies at all."

The coup that brought him to power took place at Aslef's first executive meeting of 1982, when the train drivers' nine-man leadership met to choose a chairman from among its number for the coming year. A year ago Mr Ronksley was elected by eight votes to one. On this occasion, with one seat vacant and Mr Edward Miles, the London Transport motormen's leader, absent on sick leave, the vote was five to two in favour of the new candidate.

Mr Fullick, nicknamed "the old grey fox" by his colleagues, is an industrial militant in the best Aslef tradition, having started his working life at Waterloo depot in 1944 as an engine cleaner.

He qualified as a driver in 1953 and worked the footplate on long runs to Bournemouth, Salisbury and Portsmouth, as well as "round the houses" in south London and Surrey commuterland. With other Aslef drivers, when the executive is not in session he is required to report for duties. He last took a train out two weeks before Christmas.

"I would call myself a defender of the faith, and that faith is my workmates' conditions of service. I do not think we are any more militant in Southern Region than anybody else", he argued.

If, as expected, Mr Ronksley wins the North-east Region's organizers' job in a ballot due on February 25, and therefore leaves the lay executive, it seems certain that Mr Fullick will enjoy a long tenure of office as president.

BR management privately calculates that his reign will make its task of negotiating down the number of footplatemen more difficult. That is, however, the kind of reputation likely to stand him in good stead with his Southern Region constituents.



Mr Derek Fullick: Aslef tradition of militancy.



Family party: Mr Harry Nagelsztajn and his sister Manya (centre) with (from left) Kathie Janger, Joan and Michael Kornblit, Cecilia Nagelsztajn, Majir Kornblit, and Judith and Michael Nagelsztajn.

39 years to catch up on

A brother and sister who were reunited in Newcastle upon Tyne at the weekend, each having assumed the other had perished at the hands of the Nazis in 1943, yesterday began to catch up on those 39 intervening years (Our Newcastle Correspondent writes).

Mr Harry Nagelsztajn, aged 56, now a builder and father of four, of Thornbury Close, Gosforth, Newcastle, who believed his sister Manya had been killed by a *Gestapo extermination squad in their home* town of Hrubieszow, east Poland, said: "I am the happiest man in the world. I feel over the moon. For nearly 40 years I believed I had no family. Now I have a sister and we have a lot of talking to do."

His sister, now 58, who married Mr Majir Kornbilt, her childhood Polish sweetheart, and emigrated to the United States in 1950, said: "Today we can talk. Last night we were too happy to find words to say what we felt. We have discovered that we were almost certainly in Auschwitz at the same time. But men and women were kept apart and Harry was moved to a camp in Austria."

Her son, Mr Michael Kornbilt, finally found her brother after she had met a cousin in Israel a few weeks ago who had received a letter from Mr Nagelsztajn in 1946.

MPs attack Owen's plea for contest

By Craig Seton

Fears that the Social Democratic Party was in danger of becoming embroiled in a damaging nine-month contest for the leadership were voiced by several of the party's MPs last night.

They were directing most of their anger at Dr David Owen for letting it be known that he wants a contest for the leadership and saying that he is determined to stand if Mrs Shirley Williams decides after the SDP's constitutional conference next month not to challenge Mr Roy Jenkins for the post.

As some MPs spoke darkly last night of a "stop Roy Jenkins" move being under way in the party, Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, MP for Teesside, Thornaby, said: "I hope that personal ambition will not be put before the interests of the party."

Mr Jenkins is generally considered to be the favourite to take over the leadership, whichever formula the party decides to adopt for the election, although he will be eligible only if he has been elected to the Commons. Mr Jenkins is at present preparing to fight the Glasgow, Hillhead, by-election.

Next month's conference will discuss the two election methods that have been put forward: election solely by Social Democrat MPs or election by party members on a one-member-one-vote principle. The issue will be finally resolved in a ballot of the membership soon after the conference.

The dispute started in the wake of a suggestion last week by Mr William Rodgers that the party should accept Mr Jenkins as leader and Mrs Williams as president, the number two post in the party, without a contest.

It soon became known that Dr Owen opposed that proposal, which led to reports of a power struggle breaking out among the leaders, a suggestion that Dr Owen was reported as denying yesterday.

Mr Rodgers maintained yesterday his view that the party would be better served without a contest this year, but that if there was one it would not be damaging. He said: "I still think our members and our millions of supporters would be happier if we could solve this without an election, but there will be no row either way".

Mr Wrigglesworth said: "I very much regret that this speculation is taking place. I hope the leadership will resolve the question of who will run among itself.

Dr Owen's view is that the party should have elections, that it would be surprising if it did not, and that as a democratic party the SDP is quite capable of running an election without causing damage or divisiveness.

□ Liberals and Social Democrats in the South-west have failed again to resolve all their differences over the allocation of parliamentary constituencies in Devon and Cornwall and have asked the parties' conciliation machinery to find a solution at national level (Bray Seton writes).

The two parties met in Plymouth on Saturday, for the third time since December, to decide which should put up a candidate to fight the 15 local seats for the alliance. It had already been decided that the Liberals should produce the candidates for nine and the SDP six.

Afterwards they said that they had reached conditional agreement for all but three seats under the existing boundaries; those of St Ives, Honiton and Plymouth, Sutton, all Conservative-held. Negotiators could not agree who had the best chance of success.

STAMPS UP, PHONE CALLS DOWN

By Clive Cookson

Postal charges go up today by an average of 9.3 per cent. The new rates start at 12½p for an inland second-class letter and 15½p for first class.

Prices would not be raised again for at least a year, Mr Ronald Dearing, chairman of the Post Office, said yesterday. The Post Office said the increase was about 2 per cent below the general rate of inflation since charges went up more than a year ago.

Meanwhile British Telecom has cut the cost of international telephone calls to the United States, Canada and the Caribbean by a third. A three minute, direct-dialled call to New York at the cheap rate will cost £1.49, 74p less.

However, it is still cheaper to call Britain from the United States. New Yorkers pay about $2.40 for a three minute call to London.

Ulster issue brought into Irish election

From Richard Ford, Dublin

The issue of Northern Ireland was brought into the Irish Republic's general election campaign yesterday when Dr Garret FitzGerald contrasted his party's attitude towards devolution and the majority community in the province with that of Fianna Fail.

But the Irish Prime Minister emphasized that the differences were of attitude and there was agreement between his Fine Gael-Labour Government and Mr Charles Haughey's Opposition on Northern Ireland and the Anglo-Irish talks.

Dr FitzGerald said that he was certain Mr Haughey, who initiated the Anglo-Irish talks, would wish them to continue.

Mr Haughey, who says that Northern Ireland is his top political priority, and the Prime Minister, agree that Ulster is unlikely to play an important role in the campaign, which today enters its first full week. Mr Haughey said that his party had made formal and informal contacts with the Unionists in an attempt to establish trust and confidence, although during the last Fianna Fail government there had been hardly any contacts.

Dr FitzGerald said that although the majority community and his Government differed in their objectives, he had had overwhelming support from both communities in the North, who saw the advantages of reducing tension by a better relationship with the republic.

He added: "Mr Haughey has on several occasions expressed doubts and scepticism about any movement toward devolution in Northern Ireland, even within the context of the Anglo-Irish negotiations which have taken place".

□ Acid bombs, petrol bombs and bricks were thrown at the police and soldiers by 200 youths in Londonderry last night at the end of a demonstration to mark the tenth anniversary of Bloody Sunday, when 13 people were killed by troops (our Londonderry Correspondent writes). About 3,000 people took part in yesterday's parade.

□ Mr Kevin Culfer, executive member of Provisional Sinn Fein, told a Sinn Fein rally attended by 1,500 people in Birmingham yesterday that Irish freedom could come only through armed struggle (our Birmingham Correspondent writes).

He said at the Bloody Sunday rally: "Freedom will come through the M16 (rifle) and the armalite rifle. We shall achieve freedom like Zimbabwe, through the barrel of a gun."

□ Police in the Irish Republic have found a big terrorist bomb planted to trap British troops on the border with Co Monoghan (the Press Association reports). The explosives, found with detonating wires near Clones, were described as a massive device.

In a linked search nearby, the police discovered an apparent Provisional IRA arms dump, including 50,000 rounds of ammunition, five high-powered rifles, a mortar bomb, detonators, timing equipment and mercury switches.

GLC HAS NO FUNDS FOR MORTGAGES

By a Staff Reporter

The Greater London Council will be unable to issue any mortgages during the next financial year, and will drastically reduce its home building programme.

A spokesman said yesterday that this meant fewer than 300 homes would be built instead of a planned 1,500. "The council has run out of money for mortgages before, but has never started a financial year unable to give any loans."

The spokesman said the council would also end aid to housing associations, stop the creation of housing action areas and spending on renovations. The reduced housing programme was agreed on Thursday by the housing committee.

TUC SEEK MORE FOR JOBLESS

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Benefit cuts have left the unemployed poorer than at any time in the past 15 years, the TUC says today in launching its Benefit Charter for the Unemployed.

Cuts of benefit livels amounted to a "national shame of kicking the unemployed when they were already down."

Mr Alan Fisher, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said.

The charter calls for immediate restoration of benefit cuts, the extension of long-term supplementary benefit rates to the unemployed, and for supplementary benefit to be paid immediately to unemployed school-leavers.

Policemen hurt as gangs clash in Bristol

From a Staff Reporter, Bristol

Extra police were in the streets in Bristol last night after two nights of clashes between mixed groups of white and black youths. Two petrol bombs were thrown and riot shields were used when two policemen were attacked and injured, one seriously.

Twenty-one youths, 13 black and eight white, were arrested on Friday and Saturday night and 18 face charges, including theft of motor vehicles and assault on the police. Some are to appear in court this morning.

Avon and Somerset police emphasized yesterday that the incidents were nowhere near as serious as the St Paul's riot in the city two years ago, when 20 policemen were injured and more than £1m of damage was caused, although one of the rival gangs this weekend was from that area.

Chief Supt. Malcolm Popplewell, who is in charge of the St Paul's area, said: "These youths are the ones that cause trouble at football matches, and they are now causing trouble in the streets.

Discussions were held between police and community leaders yesterday about the clashes. It is understood the talks were aimed at averting more serious disturbances.

The two policemen were injured in St Nicholas Road, St Paul's, late on Saturday night when they were attacked with missiles by one of the gangs.

Police Constable Ian Bennett, who was appointed to St Paul's as a community policeman after the 1980 riots, was hit by bricks and was "fairly poorly" in Bristol Royal Infirmary with eye and head injuries last night. The hospital said that he was semi-conscious, but was expected to improve. His colleague was only slightly injured.

Police said the gangs, about 80 strong in all, clashed on both nights in the Lawrence Hill and Barton Hill areas, but ran off into St Paul's, where the two constables were attacked. Police reinforcements were called.

About a hundred policemen had been involved and no officers had been called in from outside forces.

It was not known why the two gangs had fought, but the trouble had started with an altercation on Friday night.

Bethell sues airline over high fares

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

Lord Bethell is to take his fight against high European air fares a stage farther this week by suing Sabena, the Belgian airline, for allegedy overcharging him.

As European MP for London, North-west, Lord Bethell flies regularly to Brussels, paying £125 for an economy return ticket, which he estimates is about £50 too much, and he is suing Sabena for damages through the English courts.

"I am asking the court to declare how much I have been overcharged and to ask Sabena to pay me damages and costs", Lord Bethell said yesterday. "The court might like to take account of the much lower fare offered by British Caledonian some time ago and turned down by the Belgian Government on the advice of Sabena.

"Over my six years as a member of the European Parliament I estimate that I have been charged at least £5,000 too much on flights to and from Brussels.

"I am doing this because although I hope to win my case in Luxembourg in April, there is always an element of doubt where the law is concerned and this case should increase the chance that the courts will rule on the main issue, that competition rules of the Rome Treaty apply to air transport.

"I shall be relying on recent legal opinions which suggest that articles 85 and 86 of the treaty are part of English law, and that it is improper to fix prices on a cartel basis without allowing the consumer any alternative."

Lord Bethell hopes to save money by suing through an English court.

"I am doing a lot of the legal work myself, although I am not a lawyer, and I am contributing from my own pocket."

Time to strike balance, page 8
Leading article, page 9

Science report

Baby's cry may have guided evolution

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Tiny vibrations in the ear smaller than those caused when a pin drops, can be detected by an apparatus developed for ear specialists by scientists working for the Medical Research Council.

The invention, referred to as a clinical tympanometer, is also of great potential importance to industry for safety testing of huge machines like power station generators, airplane engines and ships' turbines.

The main advance comes in the way found by a team of biomedical engineers and neurophysiologists at the council's laboratories at the National Institute for Medical Research, Mill Hill, north London, to measure the smallest movements of the ear drum without touching the body.

Other medical research using lasers has shown that tiny vibrations could be detected by a method using laser light. However, since laser light would warm the tissues on to which it is focused, it would alter the characteristics of the organ.

The solution has come in the development of microelectronic components that allow ordinary white light to be used for measuring vibrations.

For the doctor or patient the process is simple. Light is shone into the ear with the sort of clinical otoscope normally used for scrutinizing the ear drum.

The instrument is modified in three ways: a miniature noise generator composed of a microelectronic attachment to the top of the otoscope delivers a sound stimulus to the ear drum; light reflected from the ear drum is focused by a lens on a pinhead-size photodetector in the handle of the instrument; and a fibre-optic cable transmits the signal from the photodetector to a microcomputer analyser.

Analyses of the behaviour of the eardrum show that a perfect ear resonates (the frequency when the eardrum responds with maximum vibrations) at about 2,500 cycles.

That is surprising, since it is a higher note than the main component of most voices. The scientists speculate that perhaps the evolution of the ear has allowed for the warning signals, such as a baby's cry, that a mother can detect most readily.

MINISTER STAYS OUT OF DISPUTE

By Our Labour Reporter

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, has refused to become involved in a dispute at *The Sunday Times* over the executive actions which the newspaper's National Union of Journalists members claim were carried out on the instructions of Mr Rupert Murdoch, the proprietor, rather than of Mr Frank Giles, the editor.

In a letter to the NUJ officers, Mr Biffen says that guarantees on the rights of editors of *The Sunday Times* and *The Times* were written into the articles of association of the company and any dispute relating to those rights should be referred to the newspapers' five independent national directors.

The NUJ members claimed that the guarantees given to the minister by Mr Murdoch when ownership of Times Newspapers was transferred to News International last February had been breached in a staff dismissal, and a senior demotion and a senior appointment.

Mr Biffen said he did not want to see "unwarranted governmental interference" in the press, but asked the union to provide evidence if it believed other "free-standing" conditions of the transfer of ownership had been breached.

Mr Peter Wilby, father (chairman) of the NUJ chapel (office branch) at the newspaper, said last night that the journalists would seek a meeting with the national directors.

The five national directors are Lord Dacre of Glanton, Lord Greene of Harow Weald, Sir Edward Pickering, Lord Robens of Woldingham and Lord Roll of Ipsden.

Long-term aid for handicapped urged

By a Staff Reporter

More long-term planning for the needs of mentally handicapped adults living at home is called for today in a study by the Campaign for Mentally Handicapped People.

It says that 60,000 mentally handicapped adults are being looked after by their families, but in many cases the parents have made no plans for what will happen when they can no longer manage. It says planning should not start when parental support ends through illness or death. Short-term residential care must be available so that the handicapped person becomes used to living away from home before it becomes necessary.

Programmes at adult training centres should be geared to increasing the independence of mentally handicapped people living with their parents.

If mentally handicapped adults are to be more fully integrated into the life of the community they must have greater opportunities to meet and mix with people of their own age who are not handicapped, the study adds.

The study is based on interviews with parents looking after mentally handicapped adults. It found that many families are extremely isolated socially and have few outside contacts.

Living for the Present (CMH Publications, 8 Church End, Gamlingay, Sandy, Bedfordshire; £2 plus 25p postage and packing).

Year of the disabled 'not a failure'

□ Sceptics who had claimed that the 1981 International Year of Disabled People would be a waste of time have been proved wrong, according to Mr Hugh Rossi, Minister for Social Security and the Disabled (John Chartres writes).

Addressing a weekend conference of more than a hundred delegates representing organizations for the disabled, he admitted that there had been little more money but said he was determined to ensure that "a leap forward" was made when financial resources permitted.

A Government report on the international year will be published in the next few months, Mr Rossi told the Blackpool conference, which was organized jointly by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (Radar) and Lancashire County Council.

He said there had been a nagging fear that all the enthusiasm generated last year would disappear at the end of the year. But there was now a far greater awareness of the needs, abilities, and aspirations of disabled people, and a great deal of ignorance existing 18 months ago had been dispelled.

Labour leaders begin to change tack on EEC

By George Clark, European Political Correspondent

Subtle changes in the Labour Party's presentation of its case for taking Britain out of the European Economic Community are being prepared to avert the looming crisis in relations with other socialist parties in Europe.

Confidential minutes of the last joint meeting of the Labour MEPs and the party's national executive committee in London, which *The Times* has obtained, reveal the dilemma.

The minutes say: "Mr [Wedgwood] Benn suggested that, rather than talk about 'withdrawal from Europe', an emotive phrase, we should start talking abut 'extricating ourselves from the Treaty of Rome', which was factually more correct. He thought that MEPs should advise the NEC on relationships and cooperation with fraternal parties after withdrawal, and on the technical problems of extrication . . ."

Mr Alfred Lomas, European MP for London, North-East, said that other members of the socialist group in the European Parliament "had a slightly more exaggerated view of our withdrawal than the rest of their parties".

A big effort will be made to patch up the differences when Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, and Mr Eric Heffer, the frontbench spokesman on Europe, visit Brussels on Wednesday and Thursday next week to meet the 123- member socialist group of the European Parliament and, later, representatives of the party organizations in Europe.

Like it or not, the Labour Party has attracted to itself the isolationist, some say nationalistic - sounding, slogan: "Let's get out of Europe!"

But Mr Foot and Mr Heffer, now strongly supported by Mr Benn, want to convince their European comrades that their object is really to move out of the anti-socialist restrictions of the EEC into a wider European Community where there would be freedom to protect the interests of workers more effectively than is possible in a grouping dominated by big business.

The slogan, they say, should be: "We want to move *into* Europe!"

So far, Labour's public relations exercise has been a failure. The 17 Labour MEPs at Strasbourg are virtually excluded from important decisions taken by the socialist group in Europe, and the threat of British withdrawal also brushes off on to the Conservatives. Once again Britain is seen as a reluctant and ever-complaining partner.

One Labour MEP said yesterday of the British group's relations with their European socialist colleagues: "On a personal level we are friendly, but they show great hostility to our policy of coming out. We are often treated like mutineers."

"British Labour backbenchers hardly ever get selected as socialist spokesmen. Our only chance to speak at the plenary sessions is if we can get called on what is termed 'explanation of a vote', and even then we are limited to 90 seconds."

When the socialist group drafted a statement on Poland the British Labour MEPs were not given a chance to help in its composition. A British group which signed a motion on nuclear disarmament was cold-shouldered.

The minutes say: "Mrs Castle asked that details of why and how we are going to leave the EEC be ready for Mr Foot when he visits Brussels in February. She felt that because our strategy had not been planned we were not winning the argument for withdrawal either on the doorsteps or in the socialist group."

Mr Heffer, appointed to his job shortly before the meeting, agreed there was much opposition to Labour's policy and misunderstanding about it among European socialists. He said it was "important to explain the policy carefully, remembering that all parties are arguing from a basis of national interest, and stressing that we are not anti-European."

Mr Benn intervened again to emphasise "that Britain's position within the EEC was different from that of other EEC countries.

"With the exception of the Irish, we are the only people who have never lived under fascism and, although membership is a diminution of democracy for us, for other countries it is an extension of democracy. We in Britain have a different attitude towards the law. In Germany and France, legal matters are political..."

Mr Gordon Adam, MEP for Northumbria, is recorded as making a dry comment: "It is not so easy to separate political will and legal issues." The minute adds: "His constituents were more interested in practicalities, such as what would happen to the sheepmeat regime."

The minutes conclude with Mr Benn's stating that the presentation of the strategy must be extended, "but the question of membership of the Community should not be reopened".

Whether the party should fight the next election to the European Parliament in 1984 "was left on the table"; the question would be returned to "if and when it is thought necessary to do so".

Like the argument about the referendum, the question of fighting the European elections will be left to the party conference to decide. If the decision is not to fight, there is no doubt that the Social Democratic Party will seek to fill the gap; it has already made tentative approaches to socialists in Europe. Much depends on how socialist the SDP policy proves to be when it is settled later this year.



Harry Kerr

Three men, a mountain and a mystery

Three famous faces of Everest were in London yesterday. Reinhold Messner (left) from the South Tyrol, who climbed the mountain alone in 1980, Professor Noel Odell (right), aged 91, the last man to see Mallory and Irvine alive in 1924, and Captain John Noel (centre), aged 91, photographer on the 1922 and 1924 expeditions, met to talk about their old adversary (Ronald Faux writes).

Reinhold Messner twice climbed Everest withut using artificial oxygen, sustained by the historical fact that Noel Odell had spent many days at high altitudes on the mountain in his tweeds and clinker-nailed boots supporting the early British attempts.

Messneer said: "Quite eminent doctors told me that mybrain would be damaged by climbing at these altitudes, but when I see Professor Odell I do not worry any more. He is in splendid health." The professor agreed: "Those expeditions never did me any harm. I seemed to thrive on them. Mind you, I did play a lot of rugby football after them."

The mystery of whether Mallory and Irvine reached the summit came perhaps a small step closer to solution. According to Messner, the question revolves around whether Odell saw them on the first or second "step" that outcrops from the North Ridge. Professor Odell saw the two climbers through breaks in the cloud on the step and outlined against the sky. Messner argued that could only have been on the first step, since the route up the second was hidden from view in a difficult corner. The sighting was at noon, which left too little time for Mallory and Irvine to climb the second step and reachthe summit before dark. The balance of probability was that they died after abandoning their attempt.

County may petition against new bridge

From Arthur Osman
Shrewsbury

Proposal in a Bill which Shrewsbury and Atcham District Council is to intoduce in the present parliamentary session for a new road bridge over the River Severn at Shrewsbury and a multi-storey car park were described yesterday as "seriously damaging" for the historic town.

Shropshire County Council is expected to oppose the Bill at a special meeting on Friday so that it can lodge a petition against it on Saturday, the last day it can do so.

Both councils agree that a new multi-storey car park is needed but county councillors have been advised in a summary of the issues involved that in addition to it being a costly solution "it will arguably be seriously damaging both directly and indirectly to the historic bisual qualities of the nationally important conservation area".

The Bill proposes a bridge and road to enable the car park to be built within the loop of the river by the English Bridge. The county was not consulted before the Bill was drafted.

Some years ago the county supported an abortive scheme which included a footbridge over the river.

It said a road bridge would inevitably provide a dangerous conflict with traffic for children using Wakeman comprehensive school, alongside which the new main road would run.

The school would also lose some if its land and its play area was already far below the statutory minimum.

"In environmental and tourism terms the Bill could lead to schemes which will have a significant impact on the skyline and river frontage. This is currently being made more intensively residential in character.

"The cost of bridging the river will make inevitable the maximum commercial-parking use of land on the town centre side of the river, then accessible by way of the bridge.

"This will have the effect of making irrevocable changes which are hardly likely to improve the environmental qualities of the area — one river frontage has been radically altered on the Smithfield side of the town centre, seriously eroding the aesthetic quality of that side of the town. To do the same to this side could be argued to be hightly undesirable."

The county structure plan favoured as a priority a multi-storey car park in the area but last year the council considered parking should be improved as quickly as possible by a joint venture involving public and private interests.

Butter sales fall by fifth in two years

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

Average weekly consumption of butter in Britain has fallen by a fifth in the last two years, a survey published today shows.

The figures, for the third quarter of last year, predate the recent controversial newspaper advertising campaign which may have succeeded in halting or reversing the growing preference for margarine. But they are bound to cause further gloom in the dairy industry, which is faced with declining markets for both liquid milk and butter at a time of ever increasing EEC surpluses.

Sales seem certain to fall still further if the latest farm price proposal by the European Commission are implemented. The proposed increases would mean a rise in butter prices of about 8p a pound, it is estimated.

Moreover, there is growing opposition among EEC governments to the special differential subsidy paid to British butter consumers, at present worth about 13p a pound. Mr Bjorn Westh, the Danish Agriculture Minister, said yesterday in Copenhagen that his government was anxious to see it phased out.

The subsidy was originally imposed to help to dispose of the so-called butter mountain, and reflected Britain's importance as the Community's main import market.

Officially the mountain no longer exists, although there were dark hints from Mr Poul Dalsager, the EEC Agriculture commissioner, in Berlin recently about what might happen if the United States was forced to dispose of its dairy surpluses on world markets.

Consumption of eggs, sugar, beef, potatoes white bread tea and coffee was also lower in the third quarter of 1981 than the average for 1979. But people were eating more cheese, lamb, pork, green vegetables, fresh fruit and brown bread.

Checkout queues upset shoppers

□ More than one in five customers have serious complaints about the shops they use, according to a survey published today by the National Consumer Council (Robin Young writes).

Long checkout queues at supermarkets were the largest cause of complaint, followed by poor standards of service. Shoppers grumbled about cheeky, condescending and generally unhelpful shop assistants.

A third of those in the survey thought prices for necessities were unreasonable, and one in ten claimed to have been obliged to cut down on spending on food.

Though a high proportion of people felt they had bought unsatisfactory goods, only 3 per cent said they felt they needed more information or advice on shopping or their rights. Even of those who did feel they needed advice, only half had obtained it.

Nurses want strict control of pay beds

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Tighter control over the growth of provate health care has been demanded by the Royal College of Nursing and in an editorial in *The Lancet* as the number of new private beds planned reaches,2,000.

Thirty-five proposed private hospitals are awaiting planning permission. If built they well bring ythe total number of private beds in England and Wales to 34,000 compared to 455,000 in the National Health Service.

For private hospitals with fewer than 120 beds development permission does not have to be obtained from the Department of Health and Social Security, but the department has to be notified.

The Lancet this week demands a public inquiry into the plan to build a 100-bed private hosptial in Southampton opposite Southampton General Hospital, which has been approved by the city's planning committee.

It predicts thayt the polan will result in competition between the two hospitals for scarce resources of manpower and specialist diagnostic services, and criticizes the fact that for new priovate hospitals of fewer than 120 beds the planning authority is required to make its decision solely on planning grounds.

"Even if the health authorities declare that the proposal would be to the detriment of the work of the health service, that opinion, apparently, can have no weight with the planning body. This unsatisfactory situation shoul be changed." If the planning committee's decision cannot be instantly reversed then it should at least be subject to a public inquiry.

Increasing pressure from its membership has persuaded the Royal College of Nursing to revise its views on private medicine, which it used to believe should be allowed to expand according to market forces.

It has now become concerned that, with the accelerated growth of the private sector in the wake of government encouragement and recuitment campaigns by the medical insurance companies, the provision of health care might become poarized.

"Medical insurance is on the whole available only to those in employment; the unemployed, the elderly, the young, and the chronic sick are unlikely to [be able to] afford access to private treatment. Consequently the under-privileged will be further penalized," the college's policy document says.

The College, which has 192,000 members, calls for much closer monitoring of the increase in the number of private beds.

Its proposals include the reestablishment of the health service board, the body set up in the mid-1970s to oversee the phasing out of pay beds abolished in 1980 by the present government

Hospital regions to cost over £30m

□ More than £30m will have to be spent over the next few years on correcting building defects in 12 hospital developments built since 1971.

Three of the hospitals account for two thirds of the cost: The Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow (£7.25m); the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff (£7.7m); and the Hospital for Sick Children, London, (between £5m and £8m). *Details of the defects and of* the costly repairs that will be needed are contained in the latest report to Parliament of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

The Committee of Public Accounts, which investigated the Glasgow case, was told by the Department of Health and Social Security and the Welsh Office that there were no comparable cases in England and Wales. Since then the defects at the hospitals in Cardiff and London have comne to light.

The Government considers that most of the faults at the hospitals are not unique to hospital building but reflect the general experience with buildings designed and erected in the 1950s and 1960s.

It requires health authorities to prepare the detailed design briefs for new hospitals, to appoint consultants of good reputation, to select experienced and financially sound contractors, to provide detailed drawings and specifications to the contractors, and to ensure that consultant architects supervise closely the contractors' performance.

Gas search starts off Blackpool

From John Chartres
Blackpool

British Gas offshore explorers have started to drill the first of a new series of boreholes in the Morecambe Bay area of the Irish sea, only a few miles from their recently proven gasfield which is expected to deliver 1,800 million cubic feet per day by 1986.

Considerable interest in the £35,000 a day operation is being taken by civic leaders and others concerned with the job hungry and economically deprived north-west region — particularly by those clamouring for more opportunities in the Merseyside area.

The new £25m Singapore-built drilling rig Apollo II is positioned 28 miles west of Blackpool Tower with its bits already more than 2,000 feet into the seabed and a fairly confident expectation by the experts aboard, of gas being found in the next few days.

British Gas executives who have been taking parties of journalists to see the rig are retaining the customary caution over making firm predictions, nevertheless they frequently refer to their successful past record in following up predictions made by their geologists and seismologists. British Gas offshore explorers claim a success rate of of about one in four for their boreholes compared with a worldwide gas and oil rate of one in 14.

Even if the presence of gas is proved shortly, from number one well in number seven square of block 110 in the Irish Sea, it may be many weeks, or even years before a decision can be made on whether the Morcambe Bay field is worth exploiting commercially.

The drilling off Blackpool is the first part of a programme by British Gas involving up to five wells off the west coast of England during the first half of this year and later others in licensed areas in the English channel and the North sea.

Although the job prospects from offshore gas projects are relatively tiny in relation to the needs of such areas as Merseyside, west Cumbria and the industrial northwest as a whole, considerable interest is being taken because of the ripple effect for small companies able to provide technical and supply services

Secrecy dilemma for authors

Bird books help thieves to rob rare nests

By David Nicholson-Lord

Respected conservationists may be making the task of birds' egg collectors and nest robbers simpler by their readiness to publish information about breeding and nesting grounds.

Despite increasing efforts to enforce secrecy, details given in many newly published wildlife books continue to direct human predators towards the nests of protected birds.

Examples include the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, greenshank, dotterel and chough, all of which have been considered sufficiently threatened to be placed on Schedule 1 of the new Wildlife and Countryside Act. Under Section 1 of the act penalties are imposed even for disturbing such birds while they are nest-building.

But concern about publication of sensitive sites extends to other forms of animal and plantlife protected by law. The dilemma, successful conservation versus public interest and the right to know, is at its acutest over birds because of the sharp rise in popularity of ornithology as a hobby. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, for instance, has 450,000 members.

Examples cited by critics range from cheaper books to works of reference which, the RSPB acknowledges however inadvertently the information is given, form an important an weapon in the egg collector's armoury.



Golden eagle: Act says 'Do not disturb'.



Peregrine falcon: Coastal haunts revealed.

Dr Derek Ratcliffe chief scientist at the Nature Conservancy Council, in a work published in 1980 speaks of the popularity of Lake District sites with the peregrine falcon and adds:"One dale has up to four pairs nesting within its catchment".

He also describes a headland as the only coastal nesting station in the Northwest, and in the South-west, where peregrine populations have recovered considerably in the last decade, they are said to have spread down the Cornish Atlantic coast from the Devon border and to have reoccupied coastal haunts in Somerset, several of which have been named previously.

A book about greenshanks by one of Britain's best known and most respected ornithologists, includes a list of breeding grounds, listing individual lochs, glens, moors and mountains in Scotland.

Specialist maps point to inland and coastal sites for little and roseate terns, both schedule 1 species. They were apparently based on data supplied by a senior RSPB official before he joined the society.

A review by the Nature Conservancy Council goes farther, listing 735 sites of scientific interest where protected species can be found, and also supplying Ordnance Survey grid references. Although the locations of the very rarest birds and plants are not disclosed, map references are nevertheless given for sites, often only a few score acres in size, where schedule 1 species such as Savi's warbler, choughs, bitterns and marsh and Montagu's harrier can be found.

Tables in the review show that a "substantial proportion, probably approaching 50 per cent" of the total populations of honey buzzards, march harriers, black-necked grebe, bittern, garganey and dotterel are on the sites listed. Total populations of the first two species is put at fewer than nine pairs and of the others fewer than 99 pairs.

Some published references may appear, to the layman, to be sufficiently imprecise. But conservationists acknowledge that many collectors have a command of fieldcraft and their recognition and tracking of birds far excells that of ordinary ornithologists.

Collectors are said to have swum naked across lochs clutching eggs in their mouths, scaled precipitous crags with ropes and climbing irons and used fireworks to flush out cliff-nesting species like choughs. One method of locating a nightjar's eggs is for two men to drag a rope across a heath to startle the bird into the air.

The RSPB is also seriously concerned by what it describes as a frightening increase in the number of collectors. The society knows of some 900 active collectors but believes there are many more. Last year more than 1,000 incidents were reported to its small investigations unit but successful prosecutions remain difficult and relatively few.

The potential for disturbance is also being increased by the expanding armies of "tickers" and "twitchers", birdwatchers with checklists and a mania for rarities.

The dilemma of how much information to disclose dates back at least twenty years to the Loch Garten ospreys, robbed despite an RSPB guard after initial publicity, but shows every sign of becoming harder to resolve. The RSPB has itself been criticized, notably over advertisements from guest houses in its magazine, *Birds*, extolling the delights of red kite or golden eagle country and giving addresses.

The society says it checks them carefully and also tries to screen other forthcoming publications. Recently, it says, it stopped the Scottish Tourist Board bringing out a detailed viewing map for rare birds. Checking for series like the *British Birds* reports is done by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

One persistent critic of the RSPB on this issue is Mr Eric Hardy, the well-known North Country naturalist and writer, who resigned from the society because, he says, it numbered too many collectors among its members.

Mr Hardy, who has received criticism for disclosing sites in newspaper columns, argues that prospective members should be asked to state that they are not collectors and believes that double standards operate, for the "privileged" and the general public. Agreements on non-disclosure should apply to books and scientific journals as well as newspapers, he says.

Poland: Culture in crisis

Artistic community plans subversion by stealth

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 31

Other people may reach for their guns when the word "culture" is mentioned, but Poland's Military Council is still deliberating on whether a hammer or a feather duster is the more appropriate instrument for dealing with the country's unruly actors, writers and artists.

Should it allow Poland's cultural establishment to retain its traditional independence — even if that means putting up with politically critical work? Or should it crack down now before matters get out of hand?

The results of this vacillation is a corresponding uncertainty among the artistic community. The first instinctive response, of course, was to condemn martial law out of hand: the latest critical petition was signed by 120 writers and artists, including Andrzej Wajda, the film director responsible for such films as *Man of Marble* and *Man of Iron*, which describe the roots of popular protest in postwar Poland.

Dozens of actors claim to have handed in their party cards and there is an informal boycott of television appearances.

But as the weeks of martial law become months, so the cultural establishment is realizing that a less forthright approach might be in order: subversion by artistic stealth.

If anything, this view was reinforced by the recent speech of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, head of the Military Council, whose brief mention of cultural affairs emphasized the need to bring art closer to the people. That may be disturbing news for abstract painters, but figurative painters, film directors and writers should be able to mould that all-too-malleable socialist phrasing to their own ends.

Nobody seriously believes that the general hopes to usher in a new era of Socialist Realism, the style of art that traditionally portrays earnest tractor drivers staring myopically at the socialist dawn.

The uncertainty remains, however, and the most vulnerable are the performing arts. Actors and directors in the theatre and the cinema were the most heavily politicized over the past two years — most of them were in Solidarity, the independent union, or at least were sympathizers.

Actors — and Mr Wajda — are the ones who have been attending the summary trials of Solidarity activists. Actors have been ostentatiously helping the church relief operation for those interned.

Cynics say that a certain "internment chic" has sprung up, and at least one film technician of my acquaintance has expressed a sense of regret that he was not arrested with his friends in the movement; it is a regret that reflects the now widely held belief that intellectuals are being held in reasonable conditions. Actors have also been staging an informal boycott of television appearances.

The people who have to carry the bulk of political responsibility are the theatre directors. They have to ensure that the radicalism of the actors and actresses does not spill over into dangerous areas. Under martial law, the censor has to read and approve new plays, and then views the last dress rehearsal before giving the final go-ahead.

Although the censor existed before martial law; he has been treated as something of a joke. It was very lax supervision at best, and a few stylistic tricks sufficed to ensure that the last rehearsal was acceptable.

Now the directors can take few risks. One offensive or politically ambiguous remark in a play could spell the end of the production before it even begins. Thus the director of Mrozek's play *Policja* about political freedom had to play it as a farce rather than as a satire to get it past the authorities. It is up to the audience to grasp the real unstated message.

Even so, nine plays have been withdrawn (perhaps only temporarily) from the Warsaw repertoire.

Some films have also been put on ice. It is understood for example that a planned film starring Krystina Janda (the heroine of Wajda's films) tentatively called *The Interrogation* has been suspended.

The key to artistic resistance to martial law restrictions is Wajda, probably the Polish artist with the widest international following and respect. Wajda knows that the community has great expectations of him, and that has made him all the more reluctant to sign petitions or campaign vociferously against internment.

He sees himself first and foremost as a film-maker who has, admittedly, dealt with politically sensitive subjects in the past. If he were to become an active political campaigner, perhaps not much would be gained but his film-making would lose. He wants to carry on living and working in Poland; that at any rate is what one of his friends has to say. Wajda himself has been extremely reluctant to speak to Westerners in Poland.

Without a central figure to rally around, the artistic community will no doubt get on with doing what they can within the limits of the system and hope for a relaxation. Certainly some musicians and dancers are being allowed to travel to the West. This is greeted with relief, for passport controls are currently extremely strict and defections are a real possibility.

But the most enduring question is how the Military Council and the party will shift the overall policy towards the cultural establishment.



Food price increases in Poland

Film highlights US protest

By Our Foreign Staff

A weekend of international protest at the military takeover in Poland culminated last night in a television extravaganza featuring Western political leaders and entertainment personalities.

President Reagan, Mrs Thatcher, Herr Helmut Schmidt the West German Chancellor, President Mitterrand and Mr Zenko Suzuk the Japanese Prime Minister, took part in the 90 minute recording which was transmitted from the United States by satellite to 50 countries.

Called *Let Poland be Poland*, it drew a barrage of invective from its two targets, the authorities in Warsaw and Moscow. Tass said it was "a cheap show in the best Hollywood tradition", while Polish newspapers called it "a tragic-comic farce".

Britain did not show the programme and only four Western countries, Australia, Norway, Luxembourg and Belgium contracted to do so live.

Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Charlton Heston, Orson Welles, Kirk Douglas, Glenda Jackson, Joanne Woodward and the Swedish singing group Abba, took part with the political leaders. Abba is popular in the Soviet Union and the trade union newspaper *Trud* said it was saddened to see that the group was "under the orders of Reagan, Thatcher and certain Nato governments".

In a brief, taped message for the programme Mrs Thatcher said that the flame of freedom in Poland would not be extinguished by the imposition of martial law. "In Poland today the flame of freedom may seem to burn less brightly", she said.

"But it has not been extinguished, nor can it be. Sooner or later the oppressors will understand that they cannot impose their will upon men and women who ask only that Poland may truly represent the indomitable spirit of the Polish people."

The Pope speaking yesterday on Poland.

In Rome, yesterday the Pope supported the Polish bishops in their recent call for an end to martial law and said that civil rights had to be defended in every walk of life.

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday blessing, he thanked everyone who took part on Saturday in demonstrations against the suspension by the Polish martial law authorities of the independent trade union Solidarity.

In Britain, Mr Len Murray, the TUC leader, called for the immediate release of all trade unionists detained in Poland.

Farmers in France on offensive

From Jonathan Fenby Paris, Jan 31

French farmers, always quick to leap to their own defence, are fighting on four fronts to ensure that their earnings in 1982 do not fall victim to the British Government, Italian wine producers, Spanish vegetable growers or the European Commission.

After six months in which cheap Italian wine imports were the most explosive subject on the French agricultural scene, Britain has taken over in the past week as the main bugbear of the country's 700,000 farmers.

The failure of the European Community nations to agree an agricultural budget is blamed squarely on what the French young farmers' organization called "Britain's exorbitant pretensions". The 9 per cent increase in farm food prices proposed by the EEC Commission last week came in for an equally harsh reception, being described variously as scandalous and stupefying.

M François Guillaume, the president of the main farmers' federation, is due to see President Mitterrand on Tuesday to put his members' case for a 16 per cent increase in revenue this year.

Wine-growers on the Mediterranean coast in the south-west were out in force at the end of last week. Their target was Italian wine imports, which sells at prices that French growers cannot match, and which have been resumed, after a lull in the Autumn.

After a rally of 1,500 growers in Béziers on Friday, Agriculture Ministry officials agreed to block imports of Italian wine until their prices rose to French levels.

The wine-growers have been joined in their militancy by fruit and vegetable producers in the south-west who are worried about cheap Spanish imports.

Israel accepts Sinai peacekeeping force

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Jan 31

The Israeli Cabinet today finaly approved the participation of Britain, France, Holland and Italy in the multinational force to police Sinai after the Israelis complete their withdrawal in April.

The force of 2,500 from 11 countries would also include Australian and New Zealand troops. The Americans, who undertook to organize the force when the United Nations refused, will provide half the troops. Norway will supply the commander. Other particicpants will be Colombia, Uruguay and Fiji.

The Israelis had opposed the involvement of the four European countries after their governments last year coupled the announcement of their participation with statements of support for the EEC's Venice Declaration, which supports a separate Palestine. The Israelis were particularly upset by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, implying Britain was joining to make sure Arab lands were returned to the Arabs.

The Americans tried to soften the impact by issuing a joint statement with the Israelis affirming that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty was the sole basis for the force. The Israelis demanded the Europeans endorse it. Replies reached Jerusalem in January but Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, was not satisfied.

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, obtained further clarifications from the Europeans and the Israelis said they were now satisfied.

The Cabinet also discussed the weekend capture of three Al-Fatah terrorists from Jordan. Two other infiltrators were killed in the incident, which was followed by a dramatic Saturday night press conference.

☐ Beirut: Syria was reported here to have proposed a three-point peace plan for the Middle East that calls for an end of the state of war with Israel (AP reports).

The plan was set down by Mr Ahmed Iskandar Ahmed, the Syrian Minister of Information, in an interview with the Lebanese weekly magazine *Monday Morning*.

☐ Syrian arrests: Syrian authorities have rounded up about 500 dissidents and executed 30 to 50 officers after uncovering a military plot ot overthrow the Government of President Hafez Assad, Western Intelligence and Arab sources said.

Protesters clash in Frankfurt

The Citizens' Action Group said that more than 100 demonstrators were hurt on Saturday and between 12 and 15 had to be treated in hospital. All but one of 90 demonstrators who were detained yesterday have since been released, police said.

Police said about 8,000 people took part in the demonstration on Saturday, but the Citizens' Action Group put the figure at nearer 20,000.

Herr Spahn said today that the group would not be calling any new protests in the near future, but would intensify political efforts to have the project scrapped.

Frankfurt, Jan 31. — Police used water cannon and batons today to break up a crowd of several hundred protesters, on the second successive day of clashes over a planned extension of Frankfurt airport.

The demonstrators opposing the construction of a third runway gathered in the village of Walldorf near by.

Herr Leo Spahn, a spokesman for the Citizens' Action Group, which is coordinating the protest, said 11 demonstrators were injured and five had to be treated in hospital.

Police said that yesterday 104 of their men were injured, six seriously, in clashes on woodland adjoining the airport, and later in the centre of Frankfurt.

Opponents of the new runway say that is will mean the destruction of up to three million trees, and that extra traffic will make noise from the airport unbearable.

The action group, which had appealed for a peaceful protest, distanced itself from yesterday's violence when petrol bombs, branches and stones were hurled at the police.

Herr Spahn said it was possible that organized groups had come along determined to use violence. "The Citizens' Action Group has no influence over these people", he said.

He also said that the group and private individuals had taken photographs yesterday which, he alleged, showed policemen disguised as demonstrators attacking uniformed policemen. The same people were later seen arresting demonstrators, he said. A police spokesman denied the charge.—Reuter.

SAUDIS KEEN TO BUY MORE ARMS

Riyadh, Jan 31. — Saudi Arabia is buying naval weapons from France and is in the market for advanced military hardware "from friendly industrialized nations", Prince Sultan ibn Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Defence Minister, said today.

M Charles Hernu, the French Defence Minister, signed an agreement today to enlarge and set up training facilities for the Saudi navy, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

France already has a 14,500m franc (about £1,700m) contract to re-equip the Saudi navy wuth missile-firing frigates, supply ships, coastal defence installations and helicopters for naval warfare.

Saudi Arabia has a navy of 2,200 men to guard more than 2,250 miles of coast on the Red Sea and the Gulf, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies. — AP and Reuter

Churchmen expelled by Venda

From Michael Hornsby Cape Town, Jan 31

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the outspoken black general secretary of the multi-racial South African Council of Churches, and its white president, the Rev Peter Storey, have been expelled from the "Independant" black homeland of Venda after trying to visit churchmen detained there without trial.

Four of the eight pastors of Vanda's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is a member of the SAAC, and a number of prominent laymen are being held. A lay preacher died in prison last November, allegedly after torture, and there are rumours of two other deaths.

Meanwhile, the South African Government appears to be obstructing a visit to Venda by a delegation of overseas churchmen led by the Right Rev Uwe Hollm, vice-bishop of the Protestant church of Berlin. Visas for the delegation were requested in November, but have not yet been issued. A representative of the Lutheran Church in Sweden was turned back at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport last week.

Bishop Tutu and Mr Storey drove to Venda in the north-east corner of South Africa last Friday. After calling at the home of local clergymen they went to the police station at Thohoyandou, the Venda capital and casino complex, and asked to visit the detainees.

The request was refused and the two men were escorted to the border by police cars.

Venda is the most blatantly corrupt and unpopular of the four black mini-states which have accepted internationally unrecognized independence from Pretoria in line with the apartheid strategy of territorial separation of the races.

The tiny territory is also vulnerable, being bordered to the north by Zimbabwe and separated from Mozambique to the east only by the Kruger National Park.

Despite heavy defeats in two elections, Mr Patrick Mphephu, Venda's barely literate President, has managed to stay in power, with South African help, by securing the support of the 42 nominated chiefs who fill half the seats in the local assembly, and when necessary by locking up opposition MPs.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Prisoners 'volunteer' for Golan

Tehran.—Iran has decided to form a battalion of volunteers from Iraqi prisoners of war to oppose Israel, Tehran radio said.

The broadcast quoted Ayatollah Khomeine's representative on the Supreme Defence Council as saying that the force would be known as the Golan Battalion. The Golan Heights in Syria were annexed by Israel in December.

"There have been a lot of requests from Iraqi prisoners of war. They want to be given the chance to make up for their past mistakes and fight blasphemy", the representative said. "We decided tonight to allow the joint staff command to form a battalion of the Iraqi volunteers and have the battalion prepared for dispatch to the border with Israel."

Mafia suspect held in Rome

Rome. — Signor Frank Coppola, who is 83 and alleged to be a Mafia leader was arrested while undergoing treatment in a private clinic here police said.

They also said that Signor Coppola was likely to face charges of drug and arms trafficking in connexion with a booming trade in heroin between Sicily and the United States. On medical advice, he was not taken to prison but placed under police guard at the clinic.

Film award for Dudley Moore



Los Angeles. — Dudley Moore, who was voted best comedy actor for his role in *Arthur*, at Golden Globe awards here. Sir John Gielgud was the best supporting actor award and the film also took the awards for best comedy and best song.

Meryl Streep won the best dramatic actress award for her role in *The French Lieutenant's Women*, and Bernadette Peters was chosen best comedy actress for her performance in *Pennies From Heaven*.

Americans move out

Bangkok. — About 20 women and children, who are American dependents, have been evacuated from the northern city of Chiang Mai after Thai forces clashed with an opium warlord in the so-called golden triangle, a United States consular spokesman said.

Two die in blast

Beirut. — Two Palestinians were killed when a car bomb exploded today in the Southern Lebanese town of Sidon, security sources said. Another Palestinian in the car was seriously injured.

Body identified

Camerino. — Mr Stephen May has officially identified one of two bodies found near here as that of his wife, Jeannette, justice officials said. Dental records from London, confirmed the identification.

Rebels killed

Manila.—Thirteen Communist rebels have been killed in a clash with government security forces in Zambdanga del Norte province.

Libya link in Dozier kidnap plot

From John Earle Rome, Jan 31

Magistrates investigating the Red Brigade kidnapping of Brigadier-General James Dozier believe one of his five arrested captors may have received training in Libya.

Signor Giovanni Ciucci, injured when police freed General Dozier from a flat in Padua on Thursday, is a 32-year-old ex-employee of the state railways in Pisa. He is said to have resigned from his job last June and to have obtained a visa for Lybya, where he spent several months.

Police say two of the others, Signor Antonio Savasta, aged 27, and his woman friend Signorina Emanuela Libera, aged 26, will also face charges relating to the kidnapping and killing last May of Giuseppe Taliercio, manager of the Montedison company petrochemical plant near Venice.

Talierci's murder was only one of a series of killings by terrorists in the Veneto in recent years. Including General Dozier's captors, police are known to gave arrested at least 23 people in the Veneto since Thursday.

The police are reported to have been surprised by the fact that the *Brigatisti* guarding the general spoke little English. Presumably they were more interested in the dramatic effect of seizing — and, the authorities believe, subsequently killing — an American general, than in extracting military secrets.

General Dozier appears to have recovered completely from his 42-day ordeal.

☐ General Dozier yesterday joined 180 people in a Protestant service to thank and praise God for sparing his life (AP reports).

News Analysis

Haig under fire from the right

From Nicholson Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

It is a paradox of the political power game in Washington that, just when Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, finally seemed to have consolidated his position as America's foreign policy leader, his standing within the Administration is again beginning to look vulnerable.

Until a week or so ago the conventional wisdom in Washington was that Mr Haig, after months of skirmishing with his rivals in the White House and elsewhere in the Administration, was at last secure. "The Vicar (as Mr Haig is known in the State Department) had finally made it to the altar", one official commented.

His arch-opponent, Mr Richard Allen, had been unceremoniously ousted from his post as National Security Adviser, and replaced by Mr William Clark, who was Mr Haig's former deputy. He was one of the few membes of President Reagan's "California Set" to like and respect the volatile Secretary of State, and even dissuaded Mr Haig from resigning on at least one occasion.

Mr Allen's departure also coincided with the apparent decline in influence of Mr Edwin Meese, the President's Counsellor, who harboured ambitions to have a controlling influence on the conduct of American foreign policy.

At the same time Mr Haig had strengthened his position in the State Department by promoting two trusted career diplomats to top positions.

Mr Walter Stoessel, three times an ambassador and a foreign service officer for 40 years, is expected to become Deputy Secretary of State, a post which has never been held by a career diplomat before. Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, who served in Europe while Mr Haig was Nato Commander, is to take over Mr Stoessel's old job.

Mr Haig also scored a number of foreign policy successes, such as persuading the President to agree to talks on reducing medium-range missiles in Europe, and not allowing Taiwan to jeopordise United States relations with China.

However, there has recently been a deluge of conservative attacks on Mr Haig, and in particular on the Administration's policy towards the Polish crisis. Mr Haig is being accused of being too soft and too pragmatic in his response to the Soviet Union, and of paying too much heed to the concerns of the United States' European allies.

Even Liberal newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, normally among his most staunch supporters, have carried articles suggesting that he is becoming politically and ideologically isolated from the rest of the Administration.

Mr Haig's growing band of right-wing critics have found an important (if somewhat surprising) ally in Dr Henry Kissinger, Mr Haig's former boss and poitical mentor. He wrote two articles in *The New York Times* (published also in *The Times* earlier this month strongly attacking the Administration's handling of the Polish crisis.

The criticisms being levelled at Mr Haig are personal, political and ideological. His bluff, somewhat abrasive, style often causes offence, as does his barely disguised ambition to run for President one day, despite his almost total lack of a political base.

Furthermore, Mr Haig's opponents can point to a number of areas where they believe American policy to be wanting. The Soviet Union has effectively intervened in Poland, and has not been deterred by American sanctions. Yet, despite Mr Haig's determination to preserve Western unity over Poland, the Nato alliance is more strained.

In Central America, the critics say, Cuban-backed guerrillas are continuing to make headway because the Administration's bark has not been accompanied by any bite.

Significantly, what was regarded as one of Mr Haig's new sources of strength and influence — the transfer of Mr Clark to run an upgraded National Security Council — is now being seen as his potential Achilles heel.

Mr Clark knows little about foreign policy, but he has the same political and ideological beliefs as the President, of whom he is an old friend and associate. It is now being suggested that Mr Clark, while not deliberately trying to undermine Mr Haig, will encourage the President to follow his own right-wing instincts in his future dealings with the Soviet Union over Poland.

The decision to reduce to one day Mr Haig's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, last week, and not to set a date for beginning strategic arms talks, is understood to have been insired by Mr Clark.

How CIA wooed Bani–Sadr

Washington, Jan 31. — CIA agents tried and failed to recruit Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr as an informant before he became President of the revolutionary Government of Iran, according to an account published in Sundry editions of *The Washington Post*. The account was based on classified documents seized from the American Embassy in Tehran and published there.

Mr Bani-Sadr, now in exile in France, confirmed that an attempt was made to recruit him as a consultant to an American firm, Carver Associates of Philadelphia, but he declined what he recalled as an offer of $5,000 (£2,600) a month, the newspaper said. The documents put the figure at $1,000 a month.

The disclosure of the discussions with Mr Bani-Sadr was published a day after the *Boston Globe*, citing the same set of documents, said that an American diplomat, only four days before the takeover of the United States Embassy, had relayed pleas from a friendly Iranian official to get the Shah out of the United States.

In Sunday editions, the *Boston Globe* quoted a September, 1978, warning to Washington from Mr William Sullivan, Ambassador in Iran, that the Shah's crackdown on corruption at that time could cost the embassy sources within the ruling family.

The recruiter was identified in *The Washington Post* account as Mr Vernon Cassin, now retired from the CIA, who was known to Carver associates as Guy Rutherford. Mr Cassin was said to be using the name of William Foster in Tehran in 1979. Carver Associates, a consulting firm, was providing cover for Mr Cassin, *The Washington Post* said.

A report cabled to CIA headquarters by Mr Thomas Ahern, in charge of the Tehran station, after the first approach to Mr Bani-Sadr in August, 1979, said: "There may be an opening to obtain subject's cooperation".

Mr Cassin, who met Mr Bani-Sadr in Paris in January, 1979, had three meetings with him in August and September, 1979, and did not seem to have elicited much that was not available in the press at the time, the newspaper said.

Mr Cassin had suggested that an attempt be made to stay in touch with Mr Bani-Sadr after he dropped the project, either through an associate from Carver Associates or someone from the embassy. Mr Bani-Sadr is said to have told friends he thought Mr Cassin was "just an American businessman rather clumsily attempting to establish an *inside* track in Iran".

Commentary in Persian accompanying the documents says the students who siezed the embassy learned that Mr Bani-Sadr accepted the CIA offer but never got any money because the embassy takeover ended contact with him, the *Post* said. That assertion was not supported by the documents, the newspaper added.

Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the students to keep their documents and commentary secret until last year, when Mr Bani-Sadr's opponents used them in Parliament. After that, they were published and Mr Bani-Sadr was forced to flee the country.

The *Globe* said American officials from 1966 on worried about financial corruption among the Shah's relatives and his penchant for inappropriate heavy arms. The story quoted from a 1976 CIA report that there were "an assortment of licentious and financially corrupt relatives" of the Shah.

The *Globe* also reported that Mr Parsa Kia, chief of the American desk at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, pleaded with embassy officials to oust the Shah from the United States, where he had gone for medical treatment.

America role in sea law talks raises suspicion

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Jan 31

President Reagan's announcement that the United States would return to negotiations for a law of the sea treaty has aroused fears that America would seek to amend the draft treaty concerning mining on the ocean floor.

President Reagan, who abruptly suspended American involvement in the eight-year-old negotiations last March, said the United States would seek a greater role in decision-taking on deep-sea mining and stronger protection for American mining interests.

Mr James Malone, an Assistant Secretary of State, said America would be seeking influence commensurate with its interests and concerns. He insisted this did not mean a veto over plans for extracting the vast mineral wealth from the ocean floor. But Mr T B Koh, the Singapore president of the law of the sea conference has already said any demand for changes in the draft treaty would be impossible to accommodate.

President Reagan said the United States remained committed to the multilateral treaty. "If working together at the conference we can find ways to fulfil these key objectives, my administration will support ratification by the Senate", he said.

The next session of the 150-nation third conference begins early next month. Most participants had expected that the marathon negotiations would end last year. But the United States sought to ensure that there was sufficient time for the Reagan Administration to review the draft convention.

American officials said the seabed offered a potentially important alternative source of minerals. While current world demand and metals markets did not justify commercial development, multinational consortiums had invested substantial amounts to develop technology and to prospect.

President Reagan said in his announcement on Friday: "I am announcing today that the United States will return to those negotiations and work with other countries to achieve an acceptable treaty."

President Reagan said that in the negotiations the United States would try to achieve the goal of a treaty that:

1 Would not deter development of any deep seabed mineral resources to meet national and world demand;

2 Would assure national access to these resources by current and future "qualified entities" to enhance American security of supply, to avoid monopolization of the resources by the operating arm of the proposed international authority, and to promote the economic development of the resources;

3 Would provide a decision-making role in the deep seabed regime that fairly reflected and effectively protected the political and economic interest and financial contributions of participating states;

4 Would not allow for amendments to come into force without approval of the participating states, including in the United States case the consent of the Senate in Washington;

5 Would not set other undesirable precedents for international organizations;

6Would be likely to receive the consent of the Senate. The convention should not contain provisions for the mandatory transfer of private technology and participation by and funding for national liberation movements.

Strasbourg attacks brushed off by Turks

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Jan 31

General Kenan Evran, Turkey's military ruler, today reacted strongly to the Council of Europe's condemnation of his regime but denied Turkey would be withdrawing in protest.

The council's parliamentary assembly passed a resolution attacking military rule and proposing an official inquiry into widespread abuses of human rights in Turkey, but General Evren said today he would not allow such an investigation.

General Evren, in a televised speech, accused certain members of the assembly of showing a total disregard for events which necessitated the army takeover "as explained with unprecedented patience and goodwill to various fact-finding delegations of the council" and closing their eyes to the considerable progress towards the restoration of democracy.

"It is just not possible to explain the attempts to sever Turkey's relations with the Council of Europe, either with the professions of friendship to the Turkish nation, or with the dictates of the council's statutes or with the current situation in Turkey," he said.

"The pressures directed to prevent Turkey from attaining the aims of September 12 [military takeover], or in other words, the adoption of resolutions which constitute a clear intervention in the domestic affairs of the country, can never be accepted by the Turkish nation", he said.

"If some of these governments let their interests in the developements in Turkey assume a nature of intervention in our domestic affairs, no one should doubt that our reaction will be final and resolute", he added.

Political observers here, taking their cue from hints dropped by officials, do not rule out the possibility of Turkey downgrading its diplomatic relations with the Council of Europe.

General Euren said: "Turkey is not a country which will fear the possible consequences of its decision, allow itself to be swayed away from it's national aims, and compromise its dignity and sovereignity".

His speech also contained attacks on Greece: "Certain members of the parliamentry assembly were obviously motivated not by their concern for democracy, but with the disputes between their countries and Turkey", he said. There was an undeniable link between the attempts to revile Turkey and rising international terrorism

Turkey's military rulers rejected the charges of widespread torture of political prisoners and detainees. The latest report of Amnesty International holds that at least 70 people have died during detention, mostly while being interrogated, since the coup.

INDONESIAN CONTRACTS FOR BRITAIN

From David Watts
Manila, Jan 31

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, arrived in the Philippinnes today after a three-day visit to Indonesia at the end of which he announced a credit agreement for the largest package of British goods and services yet exported to Jakarta.

The Export Credit Guarantee Department will put up two lines of credit worth a total of £125m to finance part of the expansion of Indonesia's oil refinery at Balikpapan in East Kalimantan. Lord Carrington said about 100 British firms would be involved in the project, which will double the refinery's capacity from 200,000 barrels a day. The total cost is estimated a $1,00m about (£530m).

British officials hope this work will lead to further opportunities for contracts involving the expansion of two other Indonesian refineries and the building of a fourth.

There is also optimism that Lord Carrington's visit could bring further contracts for British Aerospace for the Hawk traniner/ground attack aircraft, which is already operated by the Indonesian Air Force. At least four of their aircraft have been lost in accidents.

Ghana's holy war

Rawlings sticks to his guns

From Godfrey Morrison, Accra, Jan 31

Though it is a month now since the military took over, isolated shots and occasional short bursts of automatic fire break the silence of the curfew here almost nightly.

Sometimes soldiers simply fire into the air for no apparent reason. Inevitably, the shots encourage the spread of rumours, which proliferate in the Ghanaian capital, and help to feed the growing uncertainty about the intentions of Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings' regime, and its ability to solve the country's problems.

To some extent, the continuing atmosphere of uneasiness and crisis has been encouraged by Flight Lieutenant Rawlings and his Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), which toppled the civilian regime of President Hilla Limann on New Year's Eve.

Their rhetoric is shrill — the country has not simply experienced its fifth coup d'etat since independence, but is undergoing a "holy war" against corruption, as a part of a "people's revolution" — and some of their actions have been violent.

In the past few days the Government-controlled press has raised the political temperature further by publishing a series of reports suggesting that Britain, the United States, Nigeria, France, Togo and Cameroon are involved in a plot to launch a mercenary invasion, aimed at overthrowing the PNDC and restoring President Limann to power.

Western diplomatic sources regard the campaign as an attempt by the regime to gather support by conjuring up an external threat, and have expressed fears that it could unleash a wave of xenophobia.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings's regime certainly looks in need of all the cement it can get if it is to hold together. Its cohesion is threatend by a number of factors.

The PNDC's power rests ultimately on the armed forces. The coup was by no means bloodless, and involved fighting between army units which, reliable sources say, probably left about 50 dead. There is clear evidence that junior and middle-ranking officers in many units are now largely ignored, with the real power of command passing to warrant officers, sergeants and other NCOs.

The Government's most enthusiastic civilian supporters are among the students and workers. The National Union of Ghanaian Students (NUGS), however, has already attacked a number of the appointments made by the PNDC to the civilian "Government" which is to implement its policies.

As for the workers, their main reason for supporting the PNDC is the hope that it will carry out Flight Lieutenant Rawlings' promise to improve the economic lot of the ordinary Ghanaian.

It is by no means certain that they can do this.

It is on the economic front that the PNDC, like its predecessors, faces its most daunting task. The country is saddled with massive foreign debts, and its main export revenue-earner, cocoa, has been in steady decline for several years. As an emergency measure, the PNDC has despatched students to the countryside to help with moving the crop to the ports.

The new Government's "Libyan connexion" has led to much speculation in diplomatic circles here. Within a few days of the coup, a Libyan delegation arrived in Accra, and the PNDC's first foreign policy initiative was to restore diplomatic relations with Tripoli, which had been broken off in November 1980 by President Limann.

Though Flight Lieutenant Rawlings has visited and praised Libya, and some of the people who engineered the coup had received training there, Western sources here doubt that the coup was engineered by Colonel Gaddafi's Government. They also express scepticism at the idea that the Libyans would wish, or be able in their present comparatively straitened circumstances, to take the place of Ghana's traditional friends.

Calvo Sotelo defers election

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Jan 31

The Spanish Parliament opens tomorrow, with the Calvo Sotelo Government having to devote all its energies to surviving, after opting against calling an early general election.

The Government risks a situation where, at worst, it can muster only 151 votes against 153 in a line-up of all opposition groups after last week's defection of three MPs from the Centre Democratic Union to the right-wing Democratic Coalition of Señor Manuel Fraga. Ten Social Democrats headed by a former justice minister abandoned the Government in November.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, made it clear in Torremolinos yesterday that he intends to soldier on for as long as he can. One Socialist leader, reflecting the widespread view here, forecast a general election in October or November — anyway, he added, after the Pope's scheduled visit to Spain this autumn.

The Prime Minister was in Andalucia where the first election to set up an autonomous regional government is due in May, and he launched a rumbustious attack on the opposition party, pointing to the uncertainty for Spain that their winning office would mean.

The Cabinet discussed the defection on Friday and a majority of those present apparently backed the Premier's resolve. The judgment that it would be disastrous for the ruling Centre Party to go to the country now was uppermost.

Undoubtedly, important factors behind the Prime Minister's decision are the imminent trials of those senior officers allegedly involved in last February's attempted coup and his desire to get Spain into Nato in time for President Reagan's visit here in June.

Señor Calvo Sotelo's strongest help comes from the Socialists, who do not want a general election now.

To survive, the Government must find support from among the other groups making up the rest of the 350-seat lower house.

The Times Profile: Elizabeth II

Thirty years of rule that changed reverence to affection

Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom, and 16 other realms, head of the Commonwealth, defender of the faith, horse and dog breeder, mother-in-law and grandmother, was not amused when she heard early in 1980 that Juliana, Queen of The Netherlands and cyclist, was abdicating on her seventy-first birthday in favour of her eldest daughter. It is not the sort of thing we are likely to catch Elizabeth II doing.

Thirty years into her reign, the Queen has no reason to step down in favour of her eldest son, and every reason to regard her job as one without benefit of retirement.

Abdication is a word still calculated to send a funereal shiver through "the system," the generic term employed by the Royal Family themselves to refer to their ever-burgeoning clan. Elizabeth II is a monarch with the highest sense of duty, instilled by her father and reinforced by her belief that her father's premature death at 56 was hastened by worry over the wayward Edward who briefly preceded him.

There are other reasons why she should not emulate the bicycling monarchs of northern Europe, whose occasionally casual approach to constitutional monarchy has been known to elicit from the Queen of England a note of risibility and polite scorn.

After a decade or more of relative public indifference to the institution and the individual, Elizabeth II has finally managed to transcend the lower atmosphere of mere reverence from her subjects into the rarer air of genuine affection. Robert Lacey, author of her Jubilee biography *Majesty*, recalls tramping round publishers in 1974 with his idea for a critical study pitched midway between Crawfie and William Hamilton, and being told time after time that there was neither the interest nor the affection to warrant such a book.

Since the Jubilee, the most reliable guide for many years to the public's opinion of their monarch, the Queen's public style has become noticeably more confident and relaxed. Elizabeth Longford, biographer of the Royal House of Windsor, observed: "During the walkabouts, which have done more than anything to engender affection, it is apparent now that there is no objection to the non-royal person starting conversation, and use of 'ma'am' is much less than it used to be".

She does not always look relaxed, but that is more the fault of her features than her mind; and any human being who smiles relentlessly all day long is liable to suffer from lockjaw. At times during last year's royal wedding she looked positively grim, but then she did have weighty thoughts of ceremony and security on her mind. When an over-energetic conductor sent one of the choir stall lampshades flying, her face broke into a smile of quite wicked delight.

Those close to her suggest that her more relaxed poise springs from the current state of her family. Her son is safely married off with an heir on the way, and her sometimes difficult sister seems to have sailed into calmer personal waters. About the Snowdon divorce she was both understanding and astute; Lord Snowdon remains a close friend, and after the Queen had attended the confirmation service for Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones she roused her press secretary at home in the middle of *Match of the Day* to suggest the release of a picture showing she was there. It made all the front pages, and was her subtle and effective way of indicating that the parties to the divorce had been forgiven.

However, the Queen takes her responsibilities at the centre of a very public and therefore highly influential family very seriously. And although the Snowdons were treated gently over their divorce, the break-up of a marriage is still seriously frowned upon. The heritage of Mrs Simpson still looms. When Lord Harewood, the Queen's cousin, divorced, he was swiftly removed from proximity to the Royal Family at state occasions.

Apart from occasional sinus trouble she enjoys a rude good health which allows her to keep up a punishing schedule of work, travel and engagements. At 55 she is a little dumpier than she was, the face slightly jowlier, but the skin is still perfect, far more so than it appears on television. She maintains her energy by conserving it; she will rarely be persuaded, for example, to attend evening dinner parties, public or private; she finds them tedious and tiring, and leaves them to her husband.

In private life she plays the role of a wealthy country landowner, which she is, being the nation's most successful racehorse breeder and a world authority on bloodstock. But the aristocracy have their foibles; 11 corgis would be considered mildly eccentric if owned by anyone else. And if she is rich enough to give her daughter Gatcombe as a wedding present, she ought to be able to afford a new runabout for the Windsor estate. But she prefers to hang on to her ancient green F-registered Vauxhall estate with lino on the floor to prevent the dogs from messing it.

The manufacturers have repertedly tried to present her with one of their later models, at their expense, but she sees no reason to change it; it still goes.

Her relaxed mien must also stem from a knowledge that her position as constitutional monarch is currently held in high esteem. At a time of social unrest, in an age when political leaders of all hues are tarred with the same brush of ineffectual mediocrity, when the decisions of judges show little understanding of reality, the monarchy is perceived as the only institution of state which is working as it was intended.

Norman St John Stevas, MP, an acute observer of the constitutional monarchy, put it to me thus: "The monarchy has become our only truly popular political institution at a time when the House of Commons has declined in public esteem, and the Lords is a matter of controversy. The monarchy is, in a real sense, underpinning the other two estates of the realm."

In the time of Victoria, a threat to abolish the Lords would have meant that the armies of republicanism were at the very doors of Windsor Castle. The monarchy then was the apex of a social pyramid of which the Lords was the next layer down. Not so now; Elizabeth II has continued the groundwork of her father and mother in making the monarchy curiously classless, despite the fact that its players remain impeccably top-drawer. The trend has been continued by the Princess of Wales, who has shopped in Sainsbury's, an unthinkable act in her mother-in-law's sheltered youth.

The modern style of constitutional monarchy was designed by George V and his private Secretary, Lord Stamfordham, and has not changed in its essentials since; certainly the job is more or less exactly what it was in 1952. What does change is how her subjects perceive Elizabeth.

She began her reign to the uncritical adulation of the hopeful postwar years, but by the end of the decade the sympathy began to wear distinctly thin in some quarters. She seemed in many ways an unappealing figure, cold and formal with a silly voice and privileged lifestyle unconnected with most of her subjects. It was not until the 1970s that her style changed noticeably, and then only because of criticisms of cost levelled at the monarchy, and her own appeal to Parliament for more money to run the Buck House Show.

Having won a doubling of her annual Civil List to £980,000, with a built-in inflation clause, her well-oiled public relations machine realized that the taxpayer would have to see that he was getting value for his money. It was a powerful spur to make the Queen appear more accessible, more appealing and to let the people see that she actually performed a substantial and valuable job.

The accusations of excessive cost had died down, despite the fact that the inflation clause has quietly raised an annual Civil List to £4.2m this year, not to mention the other costs of Monarchy, like the Queen's Flight, the Royal Yacht "Britannia" and the Royal palaces, which go through the Commons on various departmental votes and add about £12m to the cost of running the show.

None of it is taxable income, but the Queen does refund to the Treasury £300,000 from the Duchy of Lancaster's revenue and her other considerable private resources. She has, for the moment, won the cash battle. although a major review of the Royal finances is due within the next two years. Mr Hamilton has, in a roundabout way, done his Queen a lot of good.

Elizabeth II is a woman of great political astuteness, which in itself is her best ally against a changing climate beyond the gates of Buckingham Palace. She is on her eighth prime minister, and by her very position knows more than any of them. Her experience is wider than any other head of state alive, and she has an excellent memory. Sir Harold Wilson, caught off-guard at a Tuesday evening audience with a question about plans to build a new town at Milton Keynes, quickly learned the value of doing his homework.

Her relations wih her prime ministers have been variable. With Churchill, she talked of racehorses. She got on well with Wilson. She found Heath cold and distant, and she positively relished the company of James Callaghan. They would occasionally emerge from their weekly audience giggling like children, and on summer evenings the audience would consist of a stroll around the palace gardens.

Of her relationship with Wilson, a member of the outer Royal circle remarked: "Funny really; the Royals will often get on famously with a bit of a rum cove. Attraction of opposites, I suppose."

With Mrs Thatcher, the relationship is said to be "more businesslike than warm"; the audiences, traditionally of around 30 minutes, now often extend to an hour or an hour and a half, and they have yet to be seen to emerge giggling. "The Queen is tremendously easy to get on with; she is remarkably well-informed, displays a great empathy towards all who come to her, and has a marvellous sense of humour. But Mrs Thatcher is very correct," said one who knows them both.

It is, in a way, a shame that the Queen cannot, by virtue of her position, make more use of her astonishing knowledge of domestic and world politics, accumulated from countless personal contacts and assiduous reading every day of her life of the "boxes" of state papers that dog her twice a day wherever she goes. She goes through them religiously, unlike Edward, who left them strewn unattended around Fort Belvedere to be read by all manner of bad eggs in his entourage.

The Queen is well aware that her political acumen may have to be employed rather more in future, if the Social Democrats fulfil their promise to break the two-party mould, and wafer-thin majorities and hung parliaments become more common. The occasional exercise of the Royal prerogative in the past, notably on Macmillan's retirement and on Heath's efforts to cling to power in 1974, has tended, unfairly, to bring criticism upon the monarch. Since then it can be assumed that a little more political tact and wisdom may have been learnt on both sides.

Her political gifts, however circumscribed they may be, have also been seen at work in the Commonwealth, an institution in which she believes most strongly. Many would claim, indeed, that it is only Elizabeth II who holds it together. During the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in Lusaka, it was the Queen's ability to strike up a warm relationship with Kenneth Kaunda which finally ensured the progress of the Lancaster House talks on the future in Rhodesia, a feat which Mrs Thatcher alone would not have been able to accomplish.

She will be in Canada again in the summer to sign the repatriation of the Canadian constitution. Even French Canadians may line the streets to see her; the French have an insatiable romantic attachment to monarchy, and a Queen over the water prevents an Anglo-Saxon Canadian becoming president. She also helps to underline to Canada that it is a quite distinct nation from its economically and culturally expansive big brother below the 49th parallel.

What the Queen exhibits more than anything, at home and abroad, is a dutiful determination that monarchy shall be done, and be seen to be done. She acted with great presence (and no mean horsemanship) when shots were fired during the Trooping the Colour ceremony last year. She is determind that this year the ceremony will proceed as normal. Elizabeth II has no intention of withdrawing the Crown behind the smoked windows of a black Mercedes Benz. She does not like to disappoint.

At heart, she is a conventional person. She is, after all, at that time of life when she would be unlikely to be anything else. After the experiments with popularizing the monarchy by such devices as Richard Cawston's *Royal Family* film, it is noticeable that no further such windows have been opened on to her own private life. It is noticeable, too, that recent appointments to the Royal Household have been from the old aristocratic families.

Allegations that she surrounds herself with stuffy people, all of similar background, which stretch back as far as John Grigg's celebrated attack of more than 21 years ago, have in the last resort gone unheeded. Elizabeth II prefers to surround herself with the kind of people she knows best.

As she grows older, and the years finally begin to nibble away at her remarkable stamina, she may become something of a Victoria figure, rather withdrawn but still an immensely potent symbol, while her son and daughter-in-law undertake the more gruelling functions of monarchy. But it will not necessarily reduce her charisma, or weaken her constitutional position. She has earned her place, and she is sharp enough to keep abreast of changes in her perceived position.

Had the present monarch been a man, he would not perhaps have survived so well. It was observed at the time of last year's wedding that with the exception of Spain, a recent and precarious example, the monarchies that have survived in Europe are those in Protestant countries, which lack the pageant and mystery of the Catholic Church.

"The reason for the Queen's success", observed Robert Lacey, "is that she is a woman. We threw out the cult of the Virgin Mary with the Reformation, and we smuggle it back in the form of Elizabeth II."

Alan Hamilton



A greater public accessibility: the Queen at the Royal Windsor Horse Show

1952: Opening her first parliament

The Queen with her first grandson, Peter, son of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips. She takes her responsibilities at the centre of a very public and therefore highly influential family very seriously. Now, however, she is visibly more relaxed — her son is safely married with an heir on the way and her sometimes difficult sister seems to have sailed into calmer waters. About the divorce, she has been both understanding and astute and has signalled subtly that the parties to the divorce have been forgiven.

Opera

Flexible charms

Opera 80

Northcott Theatre, Exeter

Opera 80 have pulled out a real bag of tricks this time. With Ali Bongo as magical consultant, Stephen Lawless has conjured up a solution to the problem of staging the central act of their new production of *Die Fledermaus* perfectly suited to the needs of this small Arts Council touring company, who will play in the small spaces of 16 more provincial venues over the next nine weeks.

Gone is the crowded ballroom; a conjurer entertains a sophisticated and nicely detailed dinner party, magicking dancing girls from under his cloak, fluttering streams of scarves from his hat, his most sinister trick marked with the sign of the bat. Champagne sparkles in a whirl of coloured lights, dancing as in a Hundertwasser painting against the restless patterning of the set.

John Otto's elegantly proportioned 1912 sets (the jail is as pleasing to look at as the curving lines and rosy light of Eisenstein's house) encourage the convincing simplification and scaling down of costume and movement. Complemented by David Parry's vivacious, always discreetly flexible direction of the small orchestra, and witty new lyrics and libretto by Parry and Lawless, the production moves with a strong, seductive momentum that conceals its own art.

Since there is no Frankie Howerd to help out with the last act, Michael McLean's lovable night-porter of a Frosch bows to the drunken recollections in a delightful dumb-show monologue by Eric Roberts as a strongly projected governor Frank. Just as vocally assured and coherently characterized are Stewart Buchanan's suave Falke and Michael Bulman's Eisenstein, though chief honours go to the women: Gillian Sullivan so intelligent and enchanting as Adele that I wish we could have seen more of her, and Catherine McCord as a radiant, versatile Rosalinde.

It is the company's wise policy to exchange principals and chorus between their two productions. Miss McCord surfaced from the chorus of Stewart Trotter's *Figaro* the night before, in which William Mann, two years ago, had hoped she might play the Countess. In a production in which both Marcellina's role and the restless comic business have expanded, and the vocal strength, alas, generally diminished, Elizabeth Brice takes on the part as a scarcely credible pantomime dame, epitomizing the shallow investigation of her relationship with the Count, the deaf ear turned to their music. Mozart tells us that his asking for pardon is of a quite different nature from Eisenstein's; but here the audience's laughter drowned even that exquisite moment.

Eric Roberts is less at home in his Count's costume, Delith Brook a winsome but as yet palely projected Susanna to Neil Jansen's Figaro. Thank goodness for the musicianship and stage sense of Elise Ross, new to the company, whose Cherubino, no less than her beguiling Orlofsky, had absorbed the music deeply enough to radiate the part with both sensitivity and aplomb.

Hilary Finch

● The Allegri Quartet is to perform all Beethoven's string quartets in the course of six weekly concerts, every Thursday from February 11, at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

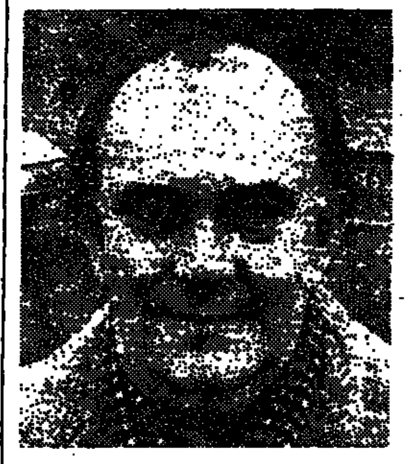
The tradition of the First Night is by no means as loved and respected as many suppose.

Irving Wardle puts the theatre critic's point of view

Opening ceremonies

Last month I had a call from Peter Gill asking me to have another look at his production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. He was not happy about the original reviews, particularly those that bewailed its lack of a POV (Point of View), and said the performance had come on so much that he now considered it the best piece of work he had done at the National Theatre.

As one of those who joined in last August's guarded chorus, I accepted the invitation and went to see the show again. In outline it was exactly what I remembered: a clean, well-proportioned reading on a stage as bare as a runway. It did not seem to have gathered much new business (apart from the girls' screaming exit at the arrival of Claudio's wedding party), and Dogberry was still making a meal of his malapropisms. What had changed was the atmosphere. Words like "cool" and "austere" no longer applied. The house had warmed up, and Gill's use of varying stage depths for changes in focus between grand-scale conflict and direct address had taken on the natural rhythm of a breathing lung. It was as if the company were sharing the work with a few friends, indicating its dark side without tearing the comedy apart, and giving a wonderfully free run to the two principals. I have never enjoyed the play more.



Alan Ayckbourn: chuckle-count

This is not a review. If it were, I would have to explain the enjoyment and maybe end up by qualifying it. But the real question is how far the performance itself has changed, and how much it was originally undervalued as a result of the first night routine. It is often said that reviewers get things wrong because they see work under artificial conditions. As their presence helps to create those conditions, some degree of artificiality is inescapable. But even more artificial is the practice of judging a production on the experience of any single night, the first or the fiftieth.

It has its own life-span, growing and changing with time, and, according to a director like Jonathan Miller, the most interesting things have usually happened before the public arrive. To do full justice to any show, whether a comedy-thriller or an uncut *Hamlet*, would take a book rather than a few hundred words.

As that is not going to happen, there is something to be said fot the first night as a moment when rehearsal exercises come together in what Peter Brook calls the Grand Exercise. A production is not an athletic event, but if it has to be tested on a single performance you might as well pick one when the company are most likely to be on form. Joan Littlewood, who ignored the existence of first nights, would deny that; and many actors would qualify it. Alec McCowen, for instance, says that first nights are always bad in comedy — "Especially if you've had a good preview. You keep trying to imitate it and listening for the laughs. Not as good as last night, you think, and you start pushing. Like we did in *Tishoo*."

Comedy is often an ordeal for the reviewer as well, sitting stone-faced among the ranks of bared teeth and wondering why jokes too feeble for the breakfast table should be going down so well with the paying customers. One answer, of course, is that some of them have not paid. Managements may have given up the old custom of budgeting for paid laughers, but there is still plenty of laughter from people helping their friends along; and reviewers have to decide how much of it is genuine, and how far they should acknowledge an audience reaction that contradicts their own. It takes some arrogance to quibble about the structural imperfections of a show that has had people falling off their seats. Go too far in the other direction, and you join forces with the Broadway statistician whom Alan Ayckbourn saw solemnly listing every titter, chuckle, and deep rich belly laugh, and then adding them all up.

Such examples come mostly from the commercial theatre, to which the first night owes its image of chauffeur-driven cars blocking narrow streets, snatch-photographers on the door and interval voices braying for pre-ordered drinks. It is not as bad a it used to be in the 1950s wher getting into the "Haymarket Play" was like gate-crashing Ascot and it usually turned out that the more trivial the entertainment the more stifling the surrounding ceremony. Nowadays, the furs and dinner-jackets are less thick on the ground, and the star-worship less hysterical.

Toby Rowland, the head of the powerful Stoll group, declares himself in favour of this change. "In the case of a big star, the agents start demanding tickets, which we try to discourage. We want to get the general public in, they're the ones who are going to see the show." Sometimes this is easier said than done. Reviewers form only one fraction of the first night allocation: seats also go out to the company, the producing management, the theatre owner, and with a large-cast musical it can easily happen that the show opens without a single member of the general public in the house.



Michael Gambon and Penelope Wilton in Peter Gill's production of "Much Ado About Nothing": a wonderfully free run

Until the Arts Council and the GLC acquire the first night habit, subsidized theatres escape this kind of scrum. At the National Theatre, first-night houses are papered only with the press and people in the building who have worked on the production. Board members and educational representatives get their turn at a guest preview. The Royal Shakespeare Company some years ago began a campaign to deglamourize first nights by cutting down the complimentary list and aiming at the atmosphere of a normal performance in which the actors could show their wares properly. At the Aldwych, this was coupled with a reduction in prices for previews and first nights; and from next month Stratford will be brought into line with this system.

I pass over the possibility that this change may have something to do with last year's audience figures, and move on to another first night factor no less distracting than the Ayckbourn chuckle-count. I refer to the build-up: the arrival of a show on a tide of advance publicity heralding whatever it is as the Big One and reducing the unveiling ceremony to a mere matter of form. The West End, to give it its due, is less prone to this manoeuvre than the subsidized sector. It was the RSC's Trevor Nunn who supplied last year's biggest commercial build-up with his New London production of *Cats*. And, although that show swept most of my colleagues off their feet, reviewers as a breed generally resist being stampeded, and not least when the rest of Fleet Street has been labouring the significance of some upcoming event.

When it arrives, we are apt to cast our tiny spanner in the works: sometimes very unfairly, as in the disgraceful dismissal of *Nicholas Nickleby* ("too long", said the overnight brigade, while the audience were further prolonging it with a 15-minute curtain call); sometimes justly, I believe, as in the case of the NT's *Oresteia* and the lamentable scramble onto Schnitzler's revolving band-wagon. Fair or unfair, such reactions apply to the pre-publicity as well as the show. Being told what to think creates as much resistance as listening to the deep, rich belly laughs of the theatre owner's party. Given a chance, the reviewer will always pick the role of the little boy in the Emperor's New Clothes, and any management that values his opinion will leave him alone to watch the parade without the help of courtiers or proclamations.

Theatre

King Lear

Orange Tree, Richmond

To spectators unfamiliar with the Orange Tree style, it may seem a bit of cheek to present a work of almost unstageable sublimity on a narrow strip of floor where actors work with the most rudimentary props and costumes and without even curtains on the windows.

Those who do know the place and the firm aesthetic that has evolved from these spartan conditions will remember its past successes in subduing other large-scale texts to the anti-illusionist rules. And, after Sam Walters's luminous production of *The Good Women of Setzuan* (in which every girl in the company had a turn in playing Shen Te), I look forward to seeing the *Ring* cycle at this address.

The sublime, admittedly, is not Mr Walters's zone. He is a narrative director, and most of the devices with which he disciplines huge works to his tiny space are there to indicate what is happening. *Lear*, on these terms, is not such an eccentric choice, as it calls for no elaborate interiors and there are many details in the story that get blotted out by conventional outpourings of tragic passion.

One such detail is that of Gloucester's eyes. We are used to the horrors of the blinding and the succeeding Oedipal pathos. In this casually dressed version, Gloucester (Geoffrey Beevers) follows up his early line about not needing spectacles by seizing Edmund's letter and putting his glasses on to read it. When another document is thrust on him in the Dover scene he says he cannot read "with the case of eyes." The mad Lear, rejecting this feeble excuse, fishes the glasses out of Gloucester's pocket and plants them on his nose.

This kind of logical invention runs through the production, mastering each physical obstacle with effortless simplicity. For the battle, the floor is cleared and there is a single barbaric roar from all round the room. The storm is treated as a ring-a-roses routine, with player after player arriving to join hands with the rain-lashed party, and only moving in the transitional spasms between one verse paragraph and the next

There remains, alas, the little matter of individual performances, which by no means share the virtues of the *mis-en-scène*. There are good performances, such as David Timson's Oswald (a thoroughly objective portrait of an intriguing coward who also happens to be a loyal servant with amiable manners). But there are others that belie the show's honesty by taking refuge behind artificial masks; such as the downgrading of Goneril and Regan into a pair of ugly sisters, and the lamentable doubling of a fearfully spiteful Cordelia and a strenuously manic Fool.

Paul Shelley's Lear comes into its own from the onset of madness; but the task of representing senility through a vigorously youthful body in a fisherman's sweater has led him into compulsive smiling, chest-stroking and hammer-tap delivery through which you cannot see the man for the mannerisms. The general standard of verse speaking is not good.

Irving Wardle

Trojans

Riverside

I would not want to feel responsible for a single person going to see Farrukh Dhondy's new play for the Black Theatre Cooperative. Denying the audience a dignified means of escape, the company decline to have an interval in a performance of nearly two hours in length. Many spectators, having an equal strength of will, took flight regardless; not in anger, not with the slamming of doors, but silently, in abject boredom. *Mr Dhondy* has achieved that boredom in rare circumstances: establishing that a handful of black workers have siezed control of a British nuclear warhead and are holding the country to ransom, he manages to tell the story without creating a moment of tension or even raising curiosity.

There is drama, however, and it comes through the microphone whenever Pauline Black sings. There is excitement, too, in her voice and in her expression of every vague emotion in the generally lacklustre lyrics supplied by Mr Dhondy. The music itself is another matter, pulsating with expert musicianship, but it is a thing apart from the play and, alas, the play is the thing, a contrived, oblique hymn to anarchy; a heavily obscure fable that encourages the downtrodden people of the world to sieze power from whatever rulers may be and kill them in the cause of universal justice.

It is a fable set within a fable, with suggestions of a slave rebellion that missed its moment in England's past but which could happen in the future. It is too tediously elaborated to make many spectators care, but at least there is a measure of intelligent performance in Trevor Laird's production, with Ben Onwukwe and Archie Pool showing some of their acting potential.

The great potential is undoubtedly Miss Black's, for she has a thrilling presence, a good voice and more understanding in her face than appears anywhere in the text. This time the Black Theatre Cooperative have gone badly astray, but as always they show increased power. Mr Dhondy has not quite sabotaged their work with his pretensions.

Ned Chaillet

Robert Addie as Stalky and John Sterland as Mr Prout in "Stalky & Co": very resistible

Dance

Cheerful spirits

Royal Ballet

Covent Garden

David Peden, who danced the lead in *Les Patineurs* on Friday, brings an irresistibly cheerful spirit to the part, as well as the springy lightness, speed and crispness which make his many solo entries particularly dazzling. It is a long time, too, since we saw anyone come so close to restoring the original daring of one series of revolving leaps where the skater tries to throw his feet higher than his down-turned head.

Deirdre Eyden's smoothly romantic skater in white, with Fiona Chadwick and Genesia Rosato prettily neat as the two in red, were the other outstanding members of this new cast. Jennifer Jackson and Rosemary Taylor as the blue girls were perky in the trio with Peden, but made heavy going of their solos; perhaps the whole ballet should be handed over to the younger dancers.

There were new young interpreters also in *My Brother, My Sisters*, Kenneth MacMillan's enigmatic but fascinating portrait of an enclosed family destroying itself. Ashley Page is another dancer distinguished by physical bravado; the way he hurls himself about the stage has an apparent recklessness that whips up the tension among the sisters.

Bryony Brind brings an unexpectedly knowing air to the first sister, which makes sense once you see the lascivious relish with which she sets about seducing the brother and picking off her sisters. Ross MacGibbon gives a puzzled, sturdy manner to the outsider who watches their progression into depravity; Lesley Collier continues to strengthen her portrait of the innocent victim.

John Percival

Television

Credibility gap

You do not have to be Spanish to go along with all that bit about The Poet as bullfighter, victim, clown and Christ, but it helps. You might just be French (Cocteau was, and he bought the whole package) but anything else and you might have trouble believing a word of it. Lindsay Kemp and Christopher Bruce's Cruel Garden *(BBC2), therefore, began at* some disadvantage, but, from the moment the moon (Michael Ho) slipped over the fence in a circle of brilliant white light and slithered to the bullring floor, it transcended the glibness of its metaphors and sustained a terse dramatic spectacle to the end.

It was marvellously danced by Bruce himself in all the above roles — to which he added, memorably, that of a puppet bride — by Yair Vardi as the bull and other agents of destruction and by Ho, and so well photographed by Nat Crosby and shot by Colin Nears that even unbelievers could overlook all the begged questions posed by an elaborate Deposition and an ambivalent shrug on the Cross.

You do not have to be English to take Stalky & Co (BBC2) — indeed you would probably get more out of it making convenient patterns for a doctoral thesis on The Imperial Ethic at Erlangen or Syracuse, N.Y. "I find it hard to believe", says Angus Wilson in his generally sympathetic study of Kipling, "that the book is not now as dead as *Eric, or Little by Little* or *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, which it was intended to replace", and, if Alexander Baron's adaptation is faithful to the original, it is impossible not to agree: there is something very resistible about that famous "rebellious" charm.

The first episode revolved almost entirely round which of the two houses was the smellier, King's or Prout's, and Prout's won because Beetle shot a cat by mistake and Stalky put the corpse in the roof above King's dorm: this was construed as a clear moral victory for independence of mind. Nicely enough done — producer Barry Letts, director Rodney Bennett — *but sadly unfunny* and smug.

Milos Forman on The South Bank Show (LWT) spoke well of his early career in Czechoslovakia — extracts from *A Blonde in Love* and *The Firemen's Ball* (it emerged that, after all, the firemen had adored it) came up wonderfully — but less well from *Taking Off* onwards and least well of all, alas, on the imminent *Ragtime* which he seems to have turned into a cross between *Roots* and *Cabin in the Sky*.

In the *Open Door* programme Protest and Survive (BBC2), Schools Against the Bomb uncovered Post-Nuclear Man. His name is Keith Bridge and he works from a bunker on Humberside whence he prepares the few for the worst in the spirit of 1940 and answers the questions of importunate children with a keen, cold stare and the kind of fast fluttering around the eyelids that *Wildlife on One* warns us to watch out for in female baboons. He will be The Controller for the area and spoke in capital letters of Total Control and Powers of Life and Death. Did that sort of power worry him a bit? It did not. Indeed, nobody could watch this bracingly scornful programme without feeling that Humber Bridge *could hardly wait* for it all to begin.

Michael Ratcliffe

Concerts

Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra/ Gardiner

Festival Hall

For Mozart's birthday, John Eliot Gardiner's coupling of the C minor Mass and the *Requiem*, with his Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, was a tardy but still topical offering. As a coupling, I must aver, not without fear of hubris, that it may have been too much of a good thing.

Between his two greatest, incomplete Masses Mozart's musical thinking altered radically, and of course the music changed likewise. But in both works, as in all his sacred music, he was wearing, so to speak, his church mitre. Worthy as he was to put one on, it caused him to compose in a character almost irrelevant to his own musical persona, so rooted are the stylistic premises of his church music in the baroque manner of his predecessors.

If Friday's concert set others thinking afresh about the two works, then the coupling was worthwhile. But neither work seemed to me as pungently interpreted by Gardiner and his colleagues as could be expected from this excellent complex of musicians. They all gave an impression of anxious edginess, rather than the adrenalin-inspired excitement of performing great music in the Festival Hall.

Both performances were decent. Gardiner made sure that pulses were lively and that double chorus balanced neatly, unoppressively, with orchestra, even in fugues; choral lines were always firm and clear. He omitted the plainsong intonations, a mistake since they set a section in proper balance: a *Gloria* or *Credo* is like a ricketty stool without them.

The soloists were sensibly chosen, Stafford Dean reliable and sensitive on the bass line (he sings too seldom in London), Isabel Buchanan more variable in technique, though musical; Diana Montague and Linda Finnie gave pleasure, even more the flexible *spinto* sound of the tenor Laurence Dale.

William Mann

Wren Orchestra/ Thomas

Queen Elizabeth Hall

With her golden flute and her forthcoming personality, and the election of one of her recent tracks — as Friday's programme-book told us — as signature tune for *Women's Hour*, Elena Duran seemed set fair to be her sex's answer to Jimmy Galway. In the event, it did not turn out quite like that.

It is of course cheering to see a soloist who so obviously loves the music and indeed can hardly bear not to dance through a Mozart ritornello. She certainly draws a beautiful tone from her flute, and has a top with a real hint of the voluptuous, pure but faintly shimmering; and she plays with vivacity and wit. She falls short in technical accomplishment: almost every stretch of passage-work produced a scramble, with missed notes, unclean articulation and often unsteady rhythm. And her cadenzas, in the Andante in C and the Concerto in D, showed uncertain taste.

The Wren Orchestra are a capable body and at their best played firmly and neatly for Ronald Thomas. He first, in this Mozart programme, conducted the *Kleine Nachtmusik*, tidily if with little point or sparkle; a conductor ought surely to convey an awareness of the numerous happy twists in even so familiar a score. Last he did the *Haffner Serenade*, directing and playing the solo violin, doing the latter with grace and with sweet, silvery tone. He brought due sturdiness to the symphonic opening movement; but too often, and especially when he was soloist as well as director, the music was apt to sound choppy and ill-balanced, and to lack a sense of shape (perhaps this is so difficult to impart while playing the violin that we ought not seek it in music where this kind of direction was presumed). He was also inclined to hurry it, which can mar the expressiveness of such a movement as the Andante in A, though his first oboist found time there to bring due expressive feeling to her solos.

As the evening wore on the orchestra became progressively more careless, and too many entries were missed, tentative or simply wrong.

Stanley Sadie

Jean-Philippe Collard

Wigmore Hall

At 34, the French pianist Jean-Phillipe Collard has already won international acclaim for his recording of Rachmaninov. Since his recital on Saturday night was part of Wigmore Hall's current Russian series, of course that composer found a place in a programme also including Tchaikovsy as well as Frenchmen understandably close to Mr Collard's heart.

The audience was loath to let him go, and with good reason. Not for a long time can this hall have heard playing of more incisive clarity and control. However complex the web, never was a *note obscured*. Besides brilliance he has a luminously varied range of colour. He can also command remarkable reserves of strength with which to complement finesse.

From Rachmaninov he chose just the latish (1931) Corelli Variations, and no orchestra could have shaded and contrasted them more vividly than he, with a translucency of texture allowing every detail of the composer's new harmonic cunning to tell. It was a joy to hear characterization at once so subtle and bold. Tchaikovsky's *Dumka* found him no less imaginative in response to texture: here he conveyed the potency of its mood change without the slightest suspicion of a heart worn on the sleeve.

On French soil Mr Collard's crispness of rhythm, no less than of touch, was enjoyable enough in Debussy's *Pour le piano* to silence most doubts (though not at the climax of "Clair de lune") as to whether this music needed quiet such forceful projection. "L'Isle joyeuse" in its turn was a triumph of exuberant virtuosity. Fauré's C sharp minor Variations, with their fond glances at Schumann, and his incomparable Nocturne in D flat, Op 63, allowed this artistocratic young artist to combine beautifully graded sonority with a more personal strain of poetry. Glowing embers were kindled into flame with an urgency and intensity *still* wholly liquid in flow.

Joan Chissell

After Suslov, how long can hardline ideology survive?

by Michael Binyon in Moscow

The death of Mikhail Suslov, the longest serving and most influential member of the Soviet Politburo, raises two questions of fundamental importance to the future development of Soviet communism. Can and will he be replaced? And who will now play the role of king-maker as the struggle for supreme power in Moscow gets under way?

The icy embodiment of pure Stalinism had glinted so long in the political constellation that somehow a future without this gaunt, sinister, puritanical figure seems unimaginable. For though Suslov was 79, his unbending ideological orthodoxy and ceaseless campaign against any reform or deviation gave him an influence that seemed almost immortal: the desiccated conscience of the party would go on and on as his more junior Politburo colleagues passed away.

But Suslov, trained in Stalinist ruthlessness and inspiring the same dread among ordinary Russians as the dictator who appointed him, is dead, and the Soviet party now has no high priest to guide it through the political, economic and ideological challenges facing it at home and abroad.

Could this lead to fundamental changes, a loosening of the dogma, an intellectual liberalization? In the short term it seems unlikely. Some of Suslov's international party functions may be taken over by Mr Boris Ponomaryov, a man schooled in similar beliefs, whose real importance may at least be recognized by promotion to full — instead of candidate — membership of the Politburo. Other senior figures in the propaganda apparatus will take over Suslov's domestic responsibilities for enforcing the party line in education, the arts and the country's intellectual life.

None will have as much individual authority but all have an interest in maintaining Marxism-Leninism in the mould in which it has developed in Soviet Russia. Today especially, with Soviet youth insidiously attracted to the western way of life, the fierce denunciation of the Italians and other Eurocommunists and the political crisis in Poland, they cannot afford any lowering of their ideological guard, any questioning of party absolutes.

But in the longer term there must be changes, as a frustrated younger generation of educated technocrats, economists and even party activists recognize. Suslov's departure makes this easier. Voices now calling for a reorganization — though not abandonment — of collective farming, a move towards a market economy, greater material incentives, more consumer goods and perhaps even limited experiments with private enterprise on the Hungarian model will encounter less resistance at the top.

Urgent economic reform will not be so inhibited by the ideological implications. Soviet communism, though making no formal break with the past or renouncing any of its tenets, will quietly adapt its philosophical framework to the political and economic realities of today's world. And though liberalization remains a dirty word to the present leaders, those senior officials now almost within grasp of real power will be secretly relieved that there is no Suslov to pronounce on their plans for change. He neither can, not probably will, be replaced.

But the death of the "kingmaker" — who turned down the post of general secretary after Nikita Khrushchev was ousted — will also affect the struggle for the party leadership. Although President Brezhnev's health has much improved over the past two years, he is now 75 and neither he nor his elderly colleagues can expect to survive much longer.



Mikhail Suslov: the king-maker is dead and there is no one to take his place

No one, not even the 13 members of the Politburo, knows who will follow Brezhnev. Western analysts have suggested various names — Viktor Grishin, the Moscow party boss, Konstantin Chernyenko, a close Brezhnev associate, even Yuri Andropov, head of the KGB security police, but these are only guesses. The most likely scenario, assuming Brezhnev were to die soon, is that Andrei Kirilenko, also 75 and the next most senior party secretary, would take over and continue Brezhnev's policies. But it could be only an interim appointment. Beneath the surface, alliances and understandings are probably already being forged for the second stage of the succession.

This might involve some of the younger, forceful men already in the Politburo such as Grigory Romanov, the Leningrad party secretary, or Mikhail Gorbachev, the energetic outsider brought in to solve the problems of Soviet agriculture. Romanov has a reputation as a good organizer, a pragmatist and a hardliner in his attitudes to the West — all qualities that would stand him in good stead.

Gorbachev is too new to have built up a power base of his own, but if he can bring Soviet agriculture back from the brink of disaster — a Herculean task — he might be able to stake a claim on grounds of sheer competence.

Or the struggle might bring to the fore men whose names are still unfamiliar. And without Suslov's casting vote, there are other forces in Soviet politics that will increasingly influence the decision. One of these is Russian nationalism. There is a growing feeling among ethnic Russians who may be a minority in the Soviet Union by the end of the century that it is "their turn". They look around them and see all the nationalities on the periphery, Estonians, Latvians, Georgians, Armenians and even Uzbeks, living better with more to eat and a higher standard of living.

Russian feeling is being fuelled by a nostalgia for past Russian glories, the growing influence of the Russian Orthodox Church, worries about the "yellowing" of the Soviet population with the central Asian population explosion, and the stagnation of agriculture in the Russian heartland. Already the Kremlin is paying special attention to the economic development of the Russian part of the country; any future leader will find powerful backers if he promises more.

Another influence is the military. The Soviet armed forces are well-trained, well-supplied and well-organized. Though still firmly under party control, many senior officers must feel exasperated by the sloppiness and inefficiencies of the civilian sector, and believe that a more military style of discipline would suit the country well.

Finally, a more assertive Soviet nationalism is gaining ground. The post-Stalin generation is better educated, less cowed, and has less of an inferiority complex. But it also has less fearful memories of the war, and many people would like to see a tougher championing of Soviet interests in the world, a greater willingness to indulge in superpower politics at the risk of a challenge to the West. A new Soviet leader may be better informed about the world, but no more liberal at home or accommodating abroad. Like Suslov, he may also have strong doubts about the *Brezhnev concept of detente.*

These forces, rather than fidelity to the classic version of Marxism-Leninism, may nourish the eventual successor to Brezhnev. Ideology sustained the early revolutionaries and was used to justify Stalin's extreme measures. But with the departure of its Stalinist guardian, communism and its leaders may now concentrate less on doctrine and more on economics. They will be free to up date and sharpen the approach without fearing, as Suslov constantly did, that the essence will be compromised.

Five in the running when Brezhnev goes

Kirilenko: next in line

Grishin: Moscow party boss

Gorbachev: tackling farm problems

Andropov: head of the KGB

Chernyenko: close Brezhnev associate

High time to strike an air fares balance

Will 1982 see a degree of sanity creep back into air fares?

Sanity means higher fares across the Atlantic, where they have been so low that several carriers are on the point of bankruptcy; it means lower fares in Europe, where they are now so high that many people who would like to fly cannot afford to do so.

Unfortunately the former is more likely than the latter, despite the best efforts of Lord Bethell and the British Government to persuade other European governments and airlines that they are charging too much.

After last week's meeting of IATA airlines in Florida, a 15 per cent rise in Atlantic fares in March, followed by a further 7½ per cent in May, seems virtually certain. The actual rises proposed for March 1 are shown in the accompanying table, and while Atlantic travellers can hardly be expected to welcome them, it is difficult to argue against their necessity. The airlines claim not to have made a profit for 10 years on Atlantic operations; last year, with fuel costs rising and almost 40 per cent of seats empty, they lost £250m.

Higher fares are not expected to have much effect on the number of people crossing the Atlantic this year, which the airlines hope will be at worst static, at best 2 to 3 per cent up. But the deal could still come unstuck. Laker is not a member of IATA and therefore not party to the agreement. He is under pressure from the banks to raise fares in line with the Florida agreement; he needs the extra cash as much as anyone, and may be forced to dent his public image and take it. But he has not yet applied to put up fares and, as always, is unpredictable.

Braniff, also in financial trouble, refused to sign the Florida agreement because it wants to keep its low fares; so Texas, its area of influence, is excluded.

While higher fares to Britain, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Switzerland were agreed in Florida, those to France, Italy, Spain, Austria and Scandinavia were not. There is said to be nothing sinister about this; a second meeting will be held next month to bring the remainder into line.

Most significant of all, perhaps, is the fact that IATA cannot decide anything; it can only recommend. And even its own members are not bound by its recommendations. So there is nothing to stop Laker cutting fares in March instead of raising them, or to stop British Airways, PanAm and the rest following him down. The protection against that, the airlines declare, is the experience of the past five years.

A spokesman for one said yesterday: "We know there is little joy in a new low fare because others match it and all suffer. It just isn't worth it. There is great desperation on the Atlantic, so we hope the new fares will stick."

Higher fares across the Atlantic *could* help to unfreeze the situation in Europe, where the big state carriers have sought to recoup from high domestic fares what they lost internationally. Although IATA rightly claims that European carriers do not make excessive profits, and although higher costs and lower densities make European comparisons with United States domestic tariffs not entirely valid, many European scheduled fares are clearly much too high. The accompanying table showing current one-way economy fares and British Airways' proposed Channel Hopper cheapies.

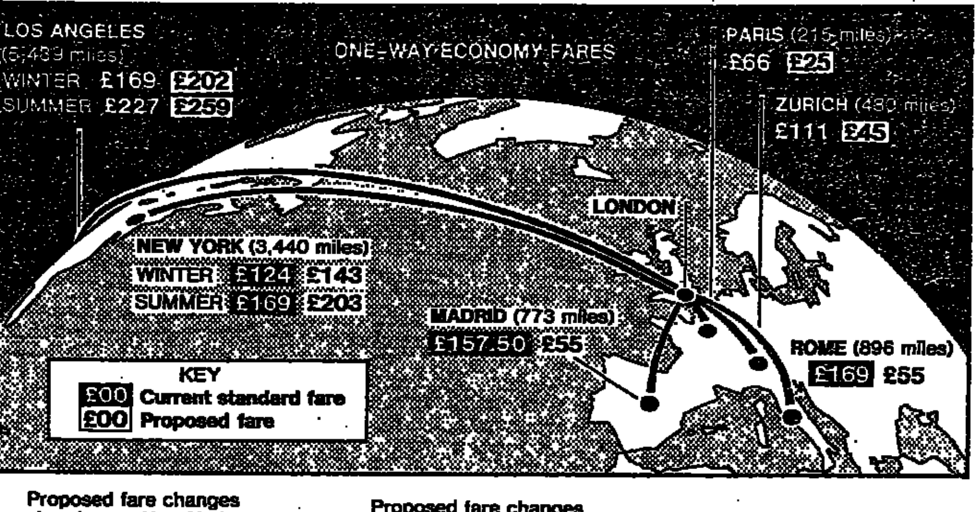
But BA have got nowhere with their Channel Hopper so far, as Laker got nowhere with his proposed cut-price European fares; even British Caledonian, with its more pragmatic approach, has secured agreement so far only to one Miniprix fare at up to 40 per cent below normal. One example: £42 to Amsterdam compared with £55 standard.

Even if Lord Bethell wins his case in the European Court and has the current fare-fixing declared contrary to the Treaty of Rome, the fear is that little or nothing will happen. For the fact is that EEC states can flout the decisions of the court with impunity; only genuine political determination will bring about change.

Even the more limited approach of the EEC Commission — that states should be allowed to set outward fares unilaterally where agreement cannot be reached with the bilateral partner — is thought unlikely to get off the ground at the Council of Ministers.

Yet the drip-drip-drip continues. On a lower key than Lord Bethell's, exchanges of all kinds go on all the time — British Airways' chief executive, Mr Roy Watts, chairs the Association of European Airlines this year — and the spreading realization that European fares are too high must gradually bear fruit, like the contrary conclusion on the Atlantic.

Michael Baily



Proposed fare changes London — New York

One way	Current	New fare from March	% Change
First	£917	£946	+3
Business			
(Winter)	£315	315	no change
(Summer)	363	363	
Economy			
(Winter)	£124	143	up 15
(Shoulder)	153	176	
(Summer)	169	203	up 20
Standby			
(Winter)	£ 90	99	up 10
(Shoulder)	113	129	up 10
(Summer)	124	138	up 10
Return Super Apex			
(Winter)	£223	257	up 15
(Shoulder)	280	322	up 15
(Summer)	314	362	up 15

Proposed fare changes London — Los Angeles

One way	Current	New fare from March 1	% Change
First	£1268	£1060	down 16
Business			
(Winter)	£684	529	down 23
(Summer)	784	577	down 24
Economy			
(Winter)	£169	202	up 15
(Shoulder)	193	222	up 15
(Summer)	227	259	up 14
Standby			
(Winter)	£131	149	up 14
(Shoulder)	154	177	up 15
(Summer)	177	200	up 13
Return Super Apex			
(Winter)	£324	376	up 16
(Shoulder)	369	424	up 15
(Summer)	438	508	up 16

One way economy fares in Europe

London to	Current miles	Propos. Standard fare	Channel Hopper
Paris	215	£66	£25
Brussels	217	65.50	30
Amsterdam	231	55	30
Frankfurt	406	86	40
Zurich	480	111	45
Milan	584	130	45
Vienna	790	153.50	55
Madrid	773	157.50	55
Rome	896	169	55

An odyssey in search of Joyce's Dublin



Joyce: the city is his memorial

Poor old Dublin, who loves to turn her children to stone, cannot afford to put up a statue to her literary son, James Joyce, on the occasion of his centenary. They are having a round-the-clock reading of *Ulysses* on the radio instead.

Anyway he would probably not have cared for the idea of paralysis that a statue would convey. The whole city is his memorial, at least those parts of it not gnawed away by time, revolution, neglect and the barbarism of property developers.

Mr Bloom could still take his Lestrygonian stroll, recognize much and miss a lot more between O'Connell Street and the National Museum. Graham Lemon's sweet shop, where Leopold began his Bloomsday peregrination, is now an Old Kentucky restaurant. The Empire bar, where he spotted Bob Doran's bottle shoulders sloping in, is a Berni Inn. Davy Byrne's has had all its character amputated by fitted carpets and Formica; a token portrait of Joyce hangs on the wall.

The Irish treat their cattle better than their pubs. A fashion for bad and outdated modernization has swept away the sumptuous brass and mahogany of all but a handful.

Doran's pub in Molesworth Street, where Bloom thrust a surreptitious hand in his trousers to see if he could tell colour by feel, is now a bright brown brick estate agents with chrome letters. No need to feel them; you can read them at a hundred yards.

Bloom's vision of the Home Rule sun rising over the old Parliament House needs a potent imagination nowadays; the skyline is rudely pierced by the hideous Meccano of the Central Bank, a planning decision tainted with the odour of corruption.

Nor can you sneak into the National Museum and emulate Bloom by peering up the nude sculpture whilst feigning an untied showlace; they have been discreetly removed to the College of Art.

Yet much remains, not least Trinity College's dull stone set in the ring of the city's ignorance. And did I not see that most Joycean character, R. B. McDowell, emerge from the gate? His lips have not yet heard the news of his retirement, for he still delivers his history lectures to himself as he walks.

And here, its dark brown aroma filling Westmoreland Street, is still Bewley's coffeehouse. Still, as in Bloomsday, Dublin's favourite tryst. Owned by its employees now, and partly self-service, it remains a welcoming cave of coffee-coloured wood and marble tables, where many a vacant hour is passed behind an *Irish Times.*

The Ballast Office clock, which Stephen Daedalus thought capable of an epiphany, still smiles down from a handsomely rebuilt façade, and Sweeney's the chemist still sells its lemon soap, although Mr Sweeney has long been replaced by Mrs Quinn.

Bloom's Turkish baths are now a Norwich Union property development site, but old Thomas Moore still stands in stone, his finger cocked at a nearby urinal, so fitting for the composer of "The Meeting of the Waters". Lafayettes, the photographers, still portray the cream of Dublin's faces up three flights of stairs and Grafton Street, the Bond Street of Dublin, is still gay with housed awnings.

Mr Bloom's house at No 7 Eccles Street is reduced to a ruin, its front door preserved in the wall of the Bailey restaurant. The real James Joyce's birthplace out in the suburbs at Rathgar is still a private house, where a Mr Harper now resides behind the memorial plaque. And the Martello tower out at Sandycove is a Joyce museum where 9,000 visitors a year go to see his piano, waistcoat and other sundry possessions.

Nobody remembers the man himself now. He left Dublin in 1904 and returned rarely, once to set up the city's first cinema. Lenny Collinge died two years ago; apart from being the first projectionist in the first cinema, his fame was being the last Dubliner alive to have known Joyce personally.

The old city has changed her face, generally for the worse. But some attitudes to Joyce remain the same. The singers of Radio Telefis Eireann had reservations about performing some of the lines from Anthony Burgess's celebratory Joyce musical, due to be screened on Irish Television next month, because the words are far too rude. The original author had much the same trouble himself.

Alan Hamilton

David Irving's computer plans for the far right

David Irving, the right-wing historian and activist, has embarked on a scheme to muster the diffuse forces of the political far right by developing a computerized mailing list of sympathizers throughout Britain. He is aiming for up to 300,000 names as a first step towards giving supporters the unified clout wielded by the "new right" in the United States.

I fear, however, that the methods Irving, 43, intends to use to build the list will bring the kind of controversy that has followed him since he started, in 1977, writing appreciatively about Hitler and the Third Reich.

Irving plans a series of advertisements in newspapers and periodicals, including *The Spectator*, in which he will offer cash to branch secretaries of right-wing groups for their current mailing lists. More controversially, he claims to have paid £50 to the organizers of a recent raffle on behalf of the beleaguered Poles for the ticket stubs on which are recorded names and addresses of about 10,000 people whom Irving hopes will prove sympathetic to his cause. (This has caused not a little alarm within that organization, which denies the claim but "will make inquiries").

He said yesterday: "The idea of the mailing list is one of the secrets of the success of the right in America. This is an attempt to get sympathizers together because so far there has not been a list of such people — unless the Special Branch has one".

Irving has met resistance also from *Varsity*, the Cambridge University student newspaper, which has declined a £400 full-page advertisement. This follows a contretemps over the way *Varsity* reported Irving's recent address to the Cambridge Union in which the historian questioned Hitler's awareness of the extermination of the Jews. The newspaper also refused Irving's request for space to reply to the report. Irving is now muttering about "taking the matter further".



Irving: cash for names

THE TIMES DIARY

Placido Domingo, the Spanish opera star whose recent flirtation with popular love ballads (including a duet with pop-singer John Denver) has raised eyebrows in the world of serious music, is about to break into the exciting new field of football songs. I gather that he is to sing El Mundial, *the official hymn of the 1982 World Cup, at the grand kick-off this summer.*

The song, written by two executives of his own record company, will appear as a Polydor single featuring a cover portrait of the tenor clad in the red shirt of Spain (I sincerely hope it will not be on sale at the bullrings). Flip side will contain Domingo's rendition of the more conventional Granada *— a pity when you consider he has the opportunity to record the definitive* You'll Never Walk Alone, *or* We Hate Nottingham Forest, *or even the charmingly simple* We Are the Champions.

But perhaps he will have the chance to sing such a selection when he gives a free open-air concert in a Madrid park to entertain the milling fans and keep them out of mischief.

A new taste

Egon Ronay is anxious to deny that he is stationing a spy in the kitchens of the Ritz, where the hotel's first English *maitre chef de cuisine*, Michael Quinn, has boldly announced his intention of pitching for highest gastronomic honours with an all-English menu. The fact is that one of Ronay's ablest inspectors, Michael Croft, has just been recruited to be Quinn's deputy.

Ronay's Lucas Guide for 1982, which Croft helped to prepare, promises that the newly appointed Quinn "will work wonders in what used to be Escoffier's domain." It also hints that they may be necessary, though, noting of the Ritz restaurant: "The luxurious decor of this sumptuous room, with its magnificent painted ceiling, encourages the diner to overlook occasional lapses in the cooking."

Croft, a sauce specialist, worked with Quinn previously at Gravetye Manor, East Grinstead. During the year he came out of the kitchens to test the country's dining rooms and bedchambers. Croft proved, according to Ronay, "a most articulate writer of well-balanced reports on all aspects of hotels and restaurants." Usually, Ronay says, he is reluctant to recruit chefs as inspectors, "because we are looking for a wider view."

Take your pick

With little time left to slug out their differences on the NUM executive, Joe Gormley and Arthur Scargill are preparing to carry their war into the bookshops. Gormley will be first on the shelves in April with a volume of memoirs carrying the self-caricaturing title *Battered Cherub*, but otherwise owing little to the angelic. He lashes out at political and industrial enemies, but while some might expect his sharpest invective to be reserved for Scargill, it is Sir Harold Wilson who most comes under fire. Wilson, says Gormley, was more to blame than Edward Heath for provoking the 1974 miners' strike.

Scargill, meanwhile, is working flat out to get his book finished and on sale as quickly as possible after Gormley's. He has completed 70,000 words in a style that a spokesman for his publisher, Cape, finds "very engaging and not at all strident", mostly about his childhood and activities in the Young Communist League. The parts about Gormley have not yet reached his publisher.

The public stir the two miners' leaders are creating has caused a certain nervousness among sales reps at Cape and Hamish Hamilton, which is bringing out Gormley's book, prompted by the suggestion that they are to be kitted out with helmets and despatched to sell the books underground.

Jefferson treasure

Edgemont, the Palladian house designed by Thomas Jefferson in Albemarle County, Virginia — and widely considered one of the architectural treasures of the United States — has been sold to an anonymous Frenchman for about £1m

Eight years before he became his country's third president, Jefferson designed it in 1793 in the style of Andrea Palladio's famous Villa Rotonda at Vicenza in northern Italy.

The house, which has been sold by Sotheby's Realty Corporation in New York, fell on hard times beween the World Wars. In 1935 the distinguished American architect Milton Grigg discovered it and its gardens in a state of near-ruin. He persuaded a friend to buy it and, from Jefferson's original drawings which he identified in the Coolidge Collection of the Massachusetts History Society, embarked on a full restoration which took 12 years.



The Virginia Villa

Grigg, has devoted much of his life to the restoration of Jeffersonian architecture. He regards Edgemont as the most exquisite example of his entire work.

Jefferson, who was responsible for much of the architecture and landscaping of Washington DC, came to England in 1786. The visit converted him to informal styles of planting and gently landscaped parklands with irregular clumps of trees and thickets.

Culcha shock

Sir Les Patterson, Australia's cultural attaché in London, should be a happy man today. Years of promoting the virtues of Aussie "culcha", as the Barry Humphries creation pronounces it, seem to have paid off: the first Australian studies centre in the United Kingdom is to open at London University's Institute of Commonwealth Studies in September.

A joint initiative of the Australian government, the institute and the Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust, the centre will provide a focus for antipodean studies, help Anglo-Australian understanding and perhaps provide seminars for British businessmen seeking trade links Down Under. Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has shown a benevolent interest in the project, which will be jointly funded by the Australian government, the trust and the university.

Professor Geoffrey Bolton, Professor of History at Murdoch University in Western Australia, is to be the centre's first head. As well as promoting Australian Studies within the University of London, the centre will encourage their introduction in other British universities.

Hover doctor

A 20-member expedition team is to help set up a permanent "hovering doctor" service for riverside communities along the remote Amazon headwaters of the Apurimac River in Peru this summer.

Two specially built British lightweight Hovercraft which can travel over terrain impassable to conventional craft will be handed over by the team to the Amazon Trust, linking existing riverside health posts serving 120 miles of the Apurimac River area. A third Hovercraft will be given to the Regions Beyond Missionary Union for medical use on the Ucayali River.

Heading the volunteer team, which will explore the Amazon headwaters and navigate further towards the source of the great river than has previously been possible, will be Squadron Leader Michael Cole RAF, who led the successful Joint Services Hovercraft Expedition to Nepal in 1978/79.

The expedition's Isle of Wight-produced "River Rover" Hovercraft is a bolt-together construction of aluminium and wood.

Michael Horsnell

TIMES PAST THE TIMES

P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR REAGAN IN PERSON

One of the side effects of the Polish crisis has been to demonstrate the lack of understanding and confidence within the western alliance. This has come about partly because the United States and a number of its European partners, especially West Germany, made conflicting interpretations of events in Poland. It can be attributed partly to the confusion that exists in Washington over the making of foreign policy under the present administration because Mr Haig neither has the authority to make policy on his own nor sufficiently good relations with his colleagues to cooperate happily in making policy jointly. He becomes too easily obsessed with questions of jursdiction.

But there is another, deeper weakness in the alliance that has been highlighted by the Polish tragedy: there is insufficient trust in American leadership. There is nothing new in this. For years it has been evident that the alliance can thrive only when there is confidence in strong American leadership, and under successive Presidents it has been evident that this confidence has been missing. Sometimes their policies have repelled European opinion, but there has been a more personal factor as well. Not since the death of John Kennedy has an American President spoken to Europe in terms to which Europe has responded.

If confidence in the United States is to be restored in Europe it will require an exercise of personal leadership. It is therefore excellent news that President Reagan is to visit Europe in June. He came to office with one great advantage and one particular liability. He has a greater capacity than any President since Kennedy to speak in tones that can be appreciated beyond the shores of the United States. But he brought with him a reputation as a primitive extremist that is particularly distressing to European opinion. The reputation is unfair. It owed something, no doubt, to our failure to look at acts rather than rhetoric, something to liberal stereotyping. But it is a political fact which the President and his advisers must take into account.

The best way for Mr Reagan to make the most of his asset and the least of his liability is for him to be seen in person. That was precisely the tactic he employed to such effect in his election campaign. He destroyed the myth of the wild man, sedulously fostered by the Carter camp, by his appearance in the television debate with Mr Carter. How could anyone believe that the more relaxed and friendly candidate could be a threat to world peace?

He needs to employ the same gift now in his dealings with Europe. The more he remains a remote figure in the White House the more it will be the Reagan caricature who is thought by European opinion to be the President of the United States. The more he talks with allied leaders — as he will be doing in the summit meetings in Europe, first of the industrialised nations and then of Nato — the better chance there will be of bridging the gap in understanding and devising a joint western approach, not just to Poland but also to the broader challenges of the 1980s. Yet even that will not be enough. If he is to reverse the dangerous tide of anti-American sentiment in western Europe he should take every oportunity to speak directly to the people on this side of the Atlantic. It is what he is best fitted to do and what they most need to hear.

FREEING TRAVEL FROM MONOPOLY

The business, commerce and political unity of Europe requires easy and economical travel. It does not have it in the air. The contrast with the United States is striking; competitive air travel has shrunk the continent so that the Boston publisher thinks nothing of popping down to Houston for the biography of an oilman. But Europe, which is supposed to be drawing closer together, is being driven apart by the national pride in flying the flag. It is this which underlies the excessive cost of flying on scheduled services: the British businessman thinks three times before adding to his costs with a £300-plus air trip to Madrid.

The British Government, happily for once fulfilling its competitive instincts, is trying to do something about reducing European air fares. It is not encouraged by British Airways which is dragging its feet, but it has in the private person of Lord Bethell a spear-carrier of exemplary courage. It is his persistence against a weight of political and bureaucratic inertia that would have made Kafka wilt that has put the issue firmly on the agenda. This week he is expected personally to sue Sabena, the Belgian air line, in the English county courts. He claims that they overcharge him by about £50 each time he flies to Brussels, contrary to EEC law.

There are those who hold that Lord Bethell is reducing what is essentially a political and commercial argument to a narrowly legalistic one and that his actions are therefore unhelpful. He himself believes on the contrary that commercial and political pressure have failed so singly over the years to crack the European price fixing that the sharp needle of legal denunciation is the only way of producing a response. He deserves support for trying. As the article on the opposite page shows, it is possible to fly from London to destinations in North America more cheaply than to Europe. This is so partly because certain costs are higher in Europe (but need they be?) and because the traffic is less dense; but it is also because if an outside airline seeks to introduce a new low fare on a national route the national airline will swiftly have the fare prohibited by its government. Lord Bethell and the British Government argue that this is contrary to the interests of the consumer and contrary to the Treaty of Rome which requires free competition within the Commom Market. That is why he is also sueing the European Commission, goading it to act as watchdog.

It would be cavalier to dismiss the opposition by the monopoly state carriers in Europe as narrow self-interest. The President of Air France, M. Pierre Giraudet, argued in his Presidential address to IATA last autumn that free competition could not optimize the market. Weightier issues of freedom and order come into it. Air transport, he argued, is part of the nation's activity that no country can do without. No nation could rely on a foreign company driven only by the profit motive for its exchange with the rest of the world. Some company will always be found, he argued, to provide tariffs which only cover variable costs so as to fill planes. Its national competitor and others would then be forced into a race away from profitability: "an infernal cycle is set in motion, taking all companies to their ruin".

The flaw in the argument, from the European and the consumer's point of view, is its insistence on the survival of national airlines. That is contrary to the spirit of the Common Market and the Treaty of Rome. In the United States free competition rules within a true common market and fares are a half to a third of those in Europe. There are no individual states preventing competition on behalf of a favourite son.

Last year more than a million Britons saw something of America, an astonishing and welcome increase in our travel. We should have comparative ease in visiting Europe. As an island the British depend more on air and should be able to travel without the hindrance of monopoly charges.

Britain's air transport industry, despite the troubles of British Airways and Laker, is probably the most competitive after America's. British Airways's alliance with the state monopoly carriers is therefore disappointing: it is understandable that the others should be more frightened of competition. But the conflict could and should be resolved by the formulation of a positive and distinctively European policy for air transport. In its absence the interests of the consumers are being blatantly over-ridden. Lord Bethell is right to pursue the EEC Commission through the courts and the Government right to encourage him. The Commission, whose job it is to try to formulate the community as a going concern, should be delighted to play fall guy in Lord Bethell's suit.

David Wood

A job making European reputations

The appointment as rapporteur of the European Parliament's budget committee of Robert Jackson, Conservative MEP for Upper Thames, is agreeable to record for more than one reason. On one level, it is good to see a former *Times* writer proving that he has far more than the gift of the gab and an aura of All Souls that hangs like incense over his desk and his presence. On another level, if the United Kingdom could not win the Strasbourg presidency at the first time of asking, then this rappporteurship must be reckoned the next best thing.

It is a demanding post that has made several European reputations since 1976. In the old nominated Parliament first Michael Shaw, Westminster MP for Scarborough, and then Lord Bruce of Donnington, as budget rapporteurs became much bigger men than their colleagues had taken them to be; and as we know, Pieter Dankert, the Dutch socialist, who took over from Bruce in the 1979 directly elected Parliament, made the leap from the rapporteurship to the presidency this year.

So far, so good. Yet it must be admitted that Strasbourg's budget committee, particularly the chairman and rapporteur, increasingly find themselves caught in a crossfire. The European Parliament, both when nominated and now it is directly elected, has constantly demanded a bigger say in how Community money should be spent. Because it cannot raise money, in effect it can put up spending only within the limits set by the domestic governments of the Ten, who have good political reasons back home for keeping expenditure strictly under their own control and in tune with their own electoral imperatives.

It was extraordinary that the constituent governments of the EEC should ever have conceded the right of Parliament to any voice at all in the Community budget. They did, though reluctantly. In 1970 the budgetary provisions of the treaties were amended, and the Council of Ministers itself asked the Commission to submit proposals on the Parliament's budgetary powers. Two years later nothing had happened.

Georges Spenale, the French socialist, persuaded the Parliament to use the ultimate deterrent of a censure motion against the Commission. That motion was withdrawn only on the understanding that proposals would be forthcoming. In January 1975, new budgetary rules began to operate, and seven months later Parliament was given power to reject the Community budget — to this day its one substantial gain over the bureaucracy.

Nevertheless, it is still a power better ignored than used. Parliament's president has to sign the annual budget into operation, and more than once there have been delays. But only once has the Parliament rejected a budget lock, stock and barrel. That was the 1980 draft budget, with the able German trade unionist Erwin Lange as chairman of the budget committee and Peter Dankert as rapporteur. The budget did not pass until July. Meanwhile the Community lived on the short commons of 1979 — not least the Parliament itself.

The point is that the Parliament wants to increase community spending, especially on domestic, social and regional policies, and unlike the governments of the Ten it wants to break through the one per cent ceiling on VAT receipts; and to reject the budget means limiting next year's budget to the same level as this year's. Therefore, it is a self-defeating operation. The only source of new revenue for the Parliament, which now exercises control over roughly a third of the Community budget, is to reduce spending on the common agricultural policy, which has been considered from the early days of the Six as obligatory. Nor is it certain that CAP cuts would carry in a Parliament where the farming vote is electorally sensitive.

Here will lie Robert Jackson's problem. One of his first preoccupations as rapporteur will be the decision of the Council of Foreign Ministers to take the European Parliament to the Luxembourg Court because Mme Veil signed the 1982 budget into operation after Parliament had increased expenditure without Council approval. Meanwhile, throughout the Community the farmers, and politicians who need their votes, have begun the fight for much bigger increases in CAP expenditure for 1982 than the Commission has proposed. Christopher Tugendhat, the Budget Commissioner, will soon be banging his head against the one per cent VAT ceiling, which at least half the governments of the Ten say must be as unchangeable as the Ten Commandments.

Robert Jackson said yesterday that the British Government and the European Parliament are taking the same road: "Both want a more cost-effective CAP and to expand the non-agricultural policies from which Britain benefits." I suspect that a few years ago, writing for *The Times*, he would have built in more qualifications, and a milder measure of politicians' licence. If only politicians would confess that every solution to a problem creates a new problem.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Roosevelt and the use of power

From Mr P. F. Breakell

Sir, Mr Henry Fairlie's sharp insight into American affairs makes it the more surprising that his article (January 20) "Is Reagan a Roosevelt?" should be so wide of the mark.

In making this strange comparison he omits the vital factor — *power* and the national will to exercise it.

Were there 11 or 13 million unemployed in America between the start of the New Deal and the last war? Certainly there were many. Roosevelt dredged great power and comparative unity out of a national awareness of disaster to which he boldly and credibly claimed the only solution.

President Reagan has no such launching pad. American power and the willingness to use it have dreadfully declined in the affluent nuclear "peace" of the past 35 years. Caution, à la Carter, is all. Risk is not to be considered. How many will volunteer under that sort of banner? Nevertheless he tries hard for revival. He may be too late but I cannot believe that he does not deserve support.

Mr Fairlie overworks that fashionable word "compassion". Compassion, expressed in a sort of vacuum, is not only condescending but also enfeebling. Surely no president can go about demonstrating compassion as if he were a bishop. However, he may be able to provide it in material terms if he can arouse some sense of purpose in many of those who need and deserve it.

Last, Mr Fairlie writes about "dispirited Americanism" here with the names of Mrs Thatcher and Mr Disraeli added for some emphasis that escapes me. It seems to me simply that our power is now greatly reduced and that pride in refusing to recognize this positively hobbles us. Regard the absurdity of Mr Heath's tirade in Johannesburg last year — a sort of Broken Wind of Change speech. Very soon afterwards his old South African comrades in arms captured a great cache of Russian arms complete with snow-booted operators. I found the contrast between moralistic waffle and the exercise of power for survival quite shaming.

Our forbears used to be much better at using small power for great purposes.

Yours faithfully,
P. F. BREAKELL,
11 Fitzroy Square, W1.

Positive discrimination

From Michael Malone

Sir, Mr Werdmuller (January 25) refers repeatedly to the need to remove discriminatory practices as being the justification for positive discrimination. It seems to me that he does not appreciate the distinction between indirect discrimination and positive discrimination.

We already have laws against indirect racial and sex discrimination, laws which are designed to eliminate unustifiable employment and other practices which may have developed quite innocently but which have the effect of penalising or handicapping racial minorities or women (or sometimes men).

Positive discrimination, which happily is lawful only to a very limited extent, is a very different animal. It is a blunt instrument which, on the basis of crude statistics, not only works injustice against individuals but also strikes at the whole moral basis of the laws against discrimination.

Without such moral basis these laws will be left based only on expediency and as such can never hope to command the full assent and support of our society.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MALONE,
22 Higher Dunscar,
Bromley Cross,
Bolton,
Lancashire.
January 27.

Validity of orders

From Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC

Sir, Mr Gerard Noel writes (January 25) that it would surely be more "honest and dignified" (whatever that may mean) for the Roman Catholic Church to abandon its Secular statehood. I hope that his letter will not be taken as the authoritative voice of the Roman Catholic laity.

To some Allied soldiers nearly forty years ago and today to millions of Poles, the value of the minuscule Vatican City State has been demonstrated in war and in uneasy peace. But above all, to many of us, it is wholly desirable that the head of a Church with such a massive worldwide membership should be able to preach and write and pray in a state independent in international law of all other secular dominions.

Yours faithfully,
RAWLINSON,
12 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.
January 25.

Conviction

From Mr Tom O'Carroll

Sir, I do not in the least object to your diarist's reference to me (Jan 21) as a successful author, but for him to say I am serving a sentence for "sexual offences" is another matter. I have one conviction only, which is for "conspiracy to corrupt public morals". This offence, which was concerned solely with a publication, did not involve me, or anyone else, in any sexual conduct, legal or otherwise.

Yours faithfully,
TOM O'CARROLL,
HM Prison,
Heathfield Road,
Wandsworth SW18.

When fuel supplies are disconnected

From the Chairman of the London Electricity Consultative Council

Sir, Early this month, the gas and electricity industries will give the Government their responses to the recommendations in the report, *Fuel Debts and Hardship*, published by the Policy Studies Institute last November.

This study was sponsored in 1978 by the industries, as well as the Electricity Consumers Council and the National Gas Consumers Council, under the guidance of the Department of Energy. It set out to discover whether the fuel boards' code of practice provides firm and effective safeguards against disconnection in cases of hardship. The review took nearly three years to complete, and it was very thorough.

The PSI found that the voluntary code of practice has not worked properly, and gives inadequate protection to those most vulnerable in their dealings with the fuel boards. It recommended a wide range of improvements, most of which my council — the statutory watchdog for London electricity consumers — has supported in its own submission to the Government. Overall, the PSI's proposals will cut out most of the opportunities for abuse of the existing code by those who can afford to pay, leaving a system designed to deal automatically with the great majority of hardship cases, without resort to disconnection. This is what the industries, and every other interested party, including the government, claim to want.

Regrettably, the main reaction by the industries so far has been to "play up" the cost implications of the PSI's report. The Electricity Council, for example, has claimed that PSI's recommendations will cost £61 million a year at current prices. It asserts these figures, but has been most reluctant to disclose to the Electricity Consumers Council the full basis for its calculations of the specific assumptions used. Apparently, the gas industry has guesstimated even higher costs. All these figures should be ignored as bureaucratic propaganda until the industries can substantiate them, and show that they have allowed for the offsetting financial benefits that PSI can bring.

Meanwhile, I hope the Government will note the recent enactment by New York State of the Home Energy Fair Practices Act. This imposes on the gas and electricity utilities a *statutory* disconnection code. It is more rigorous on some key points than anything we will get by voluntary agreement here, and more far reaching than many of the PSI's proposals. Surely our public monopolies — allegedly the embodiment of people's power — should be held to account at least as firmly as their private counterparts in capitalist USA?

Yours faithfully,
ALEX HENNEY,
London Electricity Consultative Council,
4 Broad Street Place,
Blomfield Street, EC2.

'New deal' for Britain

From Mr Richard Wainwright, M.P. for Colne Valley (Liberal) and Mr Harry Cowie

Sir, We welcome Christopher Johnson's article, "Why Britain needs a New Deal" (January 20), which makes a powerful case for a substantial increase in public-sector investment, especially housing, roads, water services and related infrastructure. Liberals have recently published a pamphlet, *A Chance to Work*, outlining a similar programme calling for £1,500m extra in these sectors, which we estimate would create around 450,000 jobs, mainly in private manufacturing, particularly the depressed construction industry. It would be necessary to ensure that small companies get their fair share of subcontracting, by government laying down a minimum of 20 per cent of purchasing to come from that sector.

There is also a strong case for investing heavily in advanced technology, both nationally and in the regions which have the highest unemployment rates. We see information technology as a challenge and a threat. It could reverse the trend of the last 50 years towards mass-production factories and huge offices.

The scope for the application of micro-computers is considerable, not least in the welfare services, which still operate punch-card systems. But it will only be effective when there is a national network of System X exchanges linked by optic fibre cables permitting small teams to plug into national data banks.

To this end, large companies must be encouraged to hive off existing departments (and especially new projects) to their own employees, giving them a bigger say and a profit participation in their own companies. By that means, for example, typing pools will be encouraged to become "offices of the future".

The threat is that if we do not seize the opportunities, the only "sunrise" industries will remain in Japan and California. To avoid this we require radical change in our approach to youth training and education, which implies an increase also in current expenditure. Finally, if private industry is going to be able to tool up for an investment-led recovery there is a case for employment subsidies, at least initially, until the investment programme comes through into order books.

The total gross outlay we estimate would be £9bn (1981 prices) spread over three years, providing a million jobs at a net cost to the PSBR (public sector borrowing requirement) of £3bn. Much of the national finance could be provided from North Sea oil revenue. There may be considerable scope for financing various regional projects as well as an information technology network from private institutional investment. We have in mind performance related bonds, such as Buzby bonds, and project finance, for example, the recent Tarmac initiative to raise private debenture capital to promote the completion of the M42.

So far the Conservative Government has blocked these imaginative schemes on monetary considerations, whereas we believe that pension-fund managers would welcome an opportunity to invest in a wider range of private and public instruments, including indexed bonds issued by regional agencies backed by North Sea oil revenue.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WAINWRIGHT,
HARRY COWIE,
Chairman,
Liberal Party Treasury Affairs Panel,
The Liberal Party Organization,
Whitehall Place, S.W.1.
January 20.

Diabetes screening

From Dr P. J. Watkins

Sir, Your Health Services Correspondent, Annabel Ferriman, has presented a balanced view of health screening (January 22) but suggested screening for early diabetes is controversial. It may be, as she points out, controversial whether or not life is prolonged by early treatment, but few of those detected by screening are actually symptomless. Diabetes is one of the few disorders detected on routine screening in which well-being actuallly improves as a result of treatment.

Diabetes is common: about half a million diagnosed in the UK and an equal number again, currently undiagnosed, who could be detected by screening. The tests are simple and cheap: either a urine test or a blood sugar test.

Blindness and foot disease (leading to infection, gangrene and amputation) are well-known complications of diabetes. Both these conditions can be alleviated, or even prevented, by early diagnosis and treatment.

Surely this is one of the most effective and cheapest forms of health screening with real benefits.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. WATKINS, Chairman,
Medical Advisory Committee,
British Diabetic Association,
10 Queen Anne Street, W1.
January 27.

Proper names

From Mr Martin Butlin

Sir, Your readers may be amused by two messages of greeting from abroad that have arrived on my desk at the Tate Gallery. One is addressed to "Mr William Blake, Tate Galerie 17/57, London, England"; the figures are presumably an echo of Blake's birth date, 1757. The other came directed to the attention of "Mr and Mrs J. M. W. Turner, Chichester Canal Circa 1830-1, Tate Gallery 560, England". In this case the address, which miraculously seems to have caused no problems to the Post Office, is based on the title, date and inventory number of the painting in the Turner Bequest.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BUTLIN,
Keeper of Historic British Collection,
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1.
January 26.

From Mr K. St. Pavlowitch

Sir, I was during the last war Principal Private Secretary to the Yugoslav Prime Minister. One morning, in 1942, a messenger from the War Office came and handed me an official letter addressed to the Czechoslav Liaison Officer to the Yugoslovak Government.

In 1956, when the second volume of my five volume biography of a Yugoslav statesman was published, I sent a copy to the British Museum and received an acknowledgment addressed to Knjiga Druga, Esq., which in the Serbian language means Volume Two, Esq.

I beg to remain, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
K. St. PAVLOWITCH,
Selwyn College,
Cambridge.
January 27.

From the Venerable C. G. Hooper

Sir, A letter received by me from Holland was addressed to:- "Mr Van Arch Beacon."

A luminary, I like to think.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. HOOPER,
Archdeacon of Ipswich,
East Green Cottage,
Kelsdale,
Saxmundham, Suffolk.
January 20.

From Mr Christopher Pearson.

Sir, When I worked years ago for the late Lord Iveagh a letter arrived for "The County Survivor". Forewarned, we drew lots for the privilege of accepting it, and speculated on the fate of the people of Surrey.

But then the penny dropped, and the letter went on to her Ladyship.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER PEARSON,
How Park,
Kings Somborne,
Hampshire.
January 26.

Establishing new long distance paths

From the Secretary of the Ramblers' Association

Sir, The Countryside Commission has just announced that the Cambrian Way long distance path, from Cardiff to Conwy, is not to be designated. The negative attitude of a number of Welsh local authorities has caused the commission to abandon the project.

There are several lessons to be drawn from this unfortunate decision. May I refer to two of them?

In the first place, the Cambrian Way saga has demonstrated the inadequacy of procedures for establishing new long distance paths. Although the commission is responsible for the designation of the paths and for paying 100% grant towards their maintenance, they have no actual powers to create the necessary rights of way. They have to rely entirely on the co-operation of local authorities along the route, and sometimes this is not forthcoming. In addition, the routes can only be created on a piecemeal basis, with seperate orders and public inquiries being needed for each individual stretch of new path. Although the commission have indicated their desire for a more streamlined procedure, and although we promoted a suitable amendment during the passage of the Wildlife and Contryside Bill, that opportunity was not taken up and the old procedures still remain.

A more important lesson concerns the role of the commission itself. The abandonment of the Cambrian Way has been offered as an example of the commission's switch in priority from recreation to conservation. The commission should tread very warily along this path. Already it is becoming heavily involved in the field of wildlife conservation, which is more properly the preserve of the Nature Conservancy Council.

At the same time it is closing regional offices and is handing over the administration of the Regional Councils for Sport and Recreation to the Sports Council. If these trends continue, people will come to question whether there is a need for the commission as a separate body at all. We would regard this as a tragedy because in our view the commission has a unique role as an organisation that can promote the national interests of informal recreation in the countryside. In pursuing this role, one of the commission's few executive powers is the designation and promotion of long distance paths. Following the decision on the Cambrian Way, the Commission should now demonstrate that this is a power which it intends to continue making good use of.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN MATTINGLY, Secretary,
The Ramblers' Association,
1/5 Wandsworth Road, SW8.
January 28.

'Police' series

From Mr Roger Graef

Sir, As you are a newspaper of record, may I put straight the circumstances under which the *Police* series originated (article, Monday, January 25).

The idea emerged from John Shearer, Head of General Programmes Unit, BBC Bristol, and Philip Daly, Head of the Bristol Network Production Centre, early in 1979. They approached the Association of Chief Police Officers for general approval of the series in the summer of 1979. I was engaged as executive producer/director in November 1979. The team was then built that would make the series, including Charles Stewart as co-director/cameraman, and Amanda Theunissen, assistant producer and Glen Davis, researcher. We devoted the next few months to learning about a variety of police forces and their willingness to receive us openly. In April 1980 we settled on Thames Valley Police.

yours faithfully
ROGER GRAEF,
BBC Bristol,
Broadcasting House,
Whiteladies Road,
Bristol.

Shingles and shakes

From Mr M. W. Inman

Sir Fifty years ago I climbed trembling up the steeplejacks' ladders to the spire of Ewhurst Church in Surrey, having just delivered 17,000 cleft oak shingles for its re-covering.

May I correct Mr, Peter Stedman (Letters January 26) for calling them shakes which means something very different in the home-grown timber trade and applies to the imported sawn article.

For well over a hundred years the firm founded by my great-grandfather produced many thousands of cleft oak shingles which were a by-product from the cleaving of larger items such as pales, spokes and barrel staves.

It is good to know that shingles are now being specially cleft more easily from chestnut which is unsuitable for spokes and staves.

Yours faithfully,
M. W. INMAN,
7 Southover High street,
Lewes, Sussex.
January 28.

Driving ambition

From Mr John Parker

Sir, I wonder how many schoolboys now wish to be engine drivers when they grow up.

Yours truly,
JOHN PARKER,
The Sycamores,
Devisdale Road,
Bowden,
Cheshire.
January 28.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 31: Divine Service was held in Flitcham Church this morning.
The Reverend Canon T. L. Livermore preached the sermon.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of The World Wildlife Fund, will visit the Fund's national organization and various of its projects in the Federal Republic of Germany between February 10 and 12.

A memorial service for Lord Cornwallis will be held today at All Saints, Maidstone, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. H. S. Howarth and Miss A. R. Clampin
The engagement is announced between George Hubert Simon, only son of Mrs D. W. S. Howarth and the late Mr H. Howarth, of Kingston St Mary, Taunton, Somerset, and Ailsa Rose, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs A. B. Clampin, of Penwood, Burghclere, Hampshire.

Captain N. J. Cottam and Miss S. A. Habberfield-Bateman
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Cottam, Royal Green Jackets, younger son of Brigadier and Mrs Donald Cottam, of Farnham, Surrey, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis Habberfield-Bateman, of Egham, Surrey.

Mr M. A. Al-Kurdi and Miss C. Bocking
The engagement is announced between Mohammed, eldest son of the late Mr A. Al-Kurdi and of Mrs F. Al-Kurdi, of North Marka, Amman, Jordan, and Clare, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs W. Bocking, of Sutton Green, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr C. R. Westacott and Miss R-J. Evans
The engagement is announced between Christopher, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Westacott, of Frogmore Farm, Littlewick Green, Berkshire, and Rowena-Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Evans, of Greenworld, Littlewick Green, Berkshire.

Mr P. C. Shiels and Miss T. A. Millington-Drake
The engagement is announced between Second Lieutenant Paul Shiels, The Royal Regiment of Wales (24th/41st), eldest son of Mrs K. J. Parkes and stepson of Mr K. J. Parkes, of Wallshaw House, Rhyl, North Wales, and Tamsin, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. H. Millington-Drake, of the Manor House, Shepperton-on-Thames, Middlesex.

Mr T. G. Perry and Miss C. A. M. Harris
The engagement is announced between Tim, son if the late Mr H. G. Perry and of Mrs Perry, of Kettering, Northamptonshire, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs H. J. L. Harris, of Brenchley, Kent.

Mr J. M. D. Hoare and Miss C. E. Parsons
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Captain and Mrs M. D. Hoare, of Downsland Court, Ditchling, Sussex, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. M. Parsons, of The Grove, Stocklynch, Somerset.

Mr N. J. B. Green and Mlle M-C. Canova
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, elder son of Mr and Mrs Charles Green, of *Loudwater*, Rickmansworth, and Marie-Claude, only daughter of M and Mme L. A. M. Canova, of Marseille.

Capt C. F. R. Rider and Miss S. M. M. Balk
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs R. W. Rider, of Hereford, and Sabine, daughter of Mr and Mrs H. J. Balk, of Chislehurst.

Mr P. M. P. O'Kane and Miss G. S. Nicholas
The engagement is announced between Peter Mark Patrick, elder son of the late Brigadier Patrick O'Kane and of Mrs Wendy O'Kane, of Beechgrove, Bentley, Farnham, Surrey, and Gillian Shiela, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Stuart Nicholas, of Spire Hollins, Combs, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire.

Mr D. M. Flacks and Miss P. M. Bull
The engagement is announced between David Mark, son of Dr and Mrs B. Flacks, of Sale, Cheshire, and Prudence Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs B. H. Bull, of Gisborne, New Zealand.

Marriages

Mr G. M. Deacon and the Hon Elizabeth Vane
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 30, in Raby Castle Chapel, Staindrop, co Durham, between Mr Glyn Deacon, eldest son of the late Mr A. Deacon and of Mrs A. Deacon, and the Hon Elizabeth Vane, second daughter of Lord and Lady Barnard. The Rev Kenneth Loraine officiated.

Mr M. Fraser and Miss S. A. Gillespie
The marriage took place on Saturday in Hongkong between Mr Iain Fraser, elder son of Sir James and Lady Fraser, of Edinburgh, and Miss Sheryle Gillespie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Gillespie, of New Zealand.

Colonel D. H. C. Gordon Lennox and Miss E. C. Stirling
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Andrew's, Great Saxham, Suffolk, between Colonel David Gordon Lennox, younger son of Lieutenant-General Sir George and Lady Gordon Lennox, of Gordon Castle, Fochabers, Morayshire, and Miss Elizabeth Stirling, eldest daughter of the late General Sir William Stirling and Lady Stirling, of Saxham Hall, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The Rev H. M. Le Feuvre officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother-in-law, the Hon Ranald Noel-Paton, was attended by Kirsty and Lora Noel-Paton, Lucinda Gordon Lennox, Susannah Jeffreys and Charlotte Lees. Brigadier Bernard Gordon Lennox was best man.
A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr A. G. A. Putt and Miss J. A. Tandy
The marriage took place in St Luke's Chapel, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, on Saturday, January 30, 1982, between Mr Arthur George Andrew Putt and Miss Jacqueline Ann Tandy.

Mr W. R. Rees-Davies, QC, MP, and Miss S. Kingsley
The marriage has taken place in Macclesfield, Cheshire, between Mr Billy Rees-Davies and Miss Sharlie Kingsley. The honeymoon was spent in the United States.

Dr P. L. d'Ambrumenil and Miss S. L. C. Crockford
The marriage took place on January 30, at St James's Church, Spanish Place, W1, between Dr Peter d'Ambrumenil, only son of Mr and Mrs B. E. d'Ambrumenil, and Miss Sarah Crockford. Dom Fabian Cowper, OSB, uncle of the bride, officiated, assisted by Mgr F. Miles.
The bride who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Charlotte Crockford, Miss Rosalind d'Ambrumenil, Anna Marie Biddle and Georgina Biddle. Mr John Cherry was best man.
A reception was held at Boodle's and the honeymoon is being spent in the West Indies.

Mr A. O'B. ffrench Blake and Mrs G. A. Herbert
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 30, at Midgham Church, of Mr Anthony ffrench Blake, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs R. L. V. ffrench Blake, of Midgham Park, Berkshire, and Mrs Gillian Herbert, daughter of Dr and Mrs P. E. Steele-Perkins, of Bradninch, Devon. The Rev John Watson officiated.

25 years ago

From The Times of Wednesday January 30 1957

The Government have given approval for the construction of a *new Forth road bridge and* approach roads at a total cost of £14,300,000. More than £9m will be advanced by the Government by way of loans and will be repayable from the proceeds of tolls. It is hoped to start construction in the summer of 1958. Mr Maclay, Secretary of State for Scotland told the House of Commons yesterday, that the Government had agreed that the layout for the full scheme, as prepared by the Forth Road Bridge Joint Board, should be adhered to, subject to discussion of certain minor points, and on *the understanding* that the cost would not materially exceed the present estimates of £14,300,000. Local authorities and the Government will contribute £500,000 and £4,650,000 respectively. Plans for the bridge have existed for many years. They were revived in 1945, when the cost was estimated at £6m. Economic conditions caused the proposal to be deferred.

The papal visit juggernaut rolls on

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

An adverse comment on the Royal Mint's papal medal, which bears the head of the Queen on one side and the head of the Pope on the other, was included in a letter of protest sent last week to Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, by three distinguished Free Church leaders. It was a discordant note on which to end this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The more substantial unease in such quarters is directed not so much at gold medals, or even at the new diplomatic relationship between the Court of St James and the Holy See, but at the apparent tendency for the Pope's visit to assume the trappings of a state visit.

Talk of a million people in the streets of Manchester and two million in the streets of Liverpool has enhanced such apprehensions. And Free Church feelings have also been ruffled by their suspicion that the Church of England will monopolize the famous "ecumenical dimension" of the event.

The issue of diplomatic relations and the issue of a state visit are of course connected, but in this case the obvious conclusion to draw does not seem to be the right one.

The Holy See, which is the entity in international law now mutually and fully recognized by the British Government, is not the Vatican City state, and it is repeatedly and insistently stated by papal diplomats that the title, "head of the Vatican state", is the least of all the Pope's titles, little more than a historical accident. His sovereignty of that tiny pocket of Rome actually dates from after the First World War, during which Britain had established a legation with an accredited minister to the Holy See.

It is a unique institution, theoretically detachable from the Vatican but not from Rome itself, for whoever is *bishop of that city embodies* the Holy See in his person. So say the authorities on international law; and thus it is not a temporary power that the British Government has acknowledged but a spiritual one. That will not necessarily make it any easier for critics to come to terms with it, but it directs the criticism where it belongs. It was Lloyd George, not Lord Carrington, who first recognized the Holy See as a "spiritual power" when he sent the first minister.

That does not answer the more fundamental doubts concerning the Pope's visit, which manifestly exist not only among Free Churchmen but which can equally be heard in Anglican and Roman Catholic circles. It was said, for instance, when it was first announced, that it was to be "a pastoral visit to the Roman Catholic community", and the immediate occasion was the Roman Catholic Church's internal renewal, which was symbolized by the Liverpool Pastoral Congress in 1980.

The Pope was to come to encourage and advance that process; the visit to Scotland, which the Scots will not like being said, was tacked on as a logical extension of the itinerary. That scheme has not been abondoned by any means; but it is now questionable whether those modest Roman Catholic intentions are capable of restraining the juggernaut. The plan of the visit is beginning to look like every other papal visit, a triumphal tour by an international megastar.

Some thought all along it would be that, because the media would treat it that way. But the media have hardly yet begun their work, and the responsibility must lie elsewhere. Perhaps only a very strong minded and strictly centralized control of the arrangements could have averted what now seems inevitable; or perhaps the original low-key approach never was realistic at all, and the phenomenon of a super-Pope is beyond the manipulation of mere mortals.

It is fair to recall that before the election of Pope John Paul II all the talk was about a simpler and more modest style of papacy, and indeed many of the traditional triumphalist trappings of the office have been discarded.

The present Pope was not crowned, but enthroned; and he has taken down many of the barriers which made popes seem so remote and exalted in the past. But the more he has become someone ordinary people can relate to, the more his popularity has grown.

It has reversed the trend of only a few years ago, and it raises very hard questions for those who thought they knew the way things ought to go. A Royal Mint medal and a new nunciature in London would, a year ago or a year from now, have passed without comment. But at present there is a touchiness at many levels of all the main denominations, a mood that has not been present for some years.

Chris Gregory

Annabel Etkind, aged 24, who will be playing the harp and singing in the Savoy Hotel's Thames Foyer at teatime on Sundays.

Highboy and lowboy sold for £108,000

By Our Sale Room Correspondent

A walnut and maple highboy and companion lowboy, made by a local cabinet maker for the Spencer Gay family of Salem, Massachusetts, about 1730, was sold by Sotheby's in New York on Saturday for $209,000 (estimate $100,000-$150,000) or £108,854.

They are a very sophisticated American adaptation of Queen Anne style, a small chest on spindly cabriole legs, and a tall chest of drawers raised on similar legs.

The pair were included in the sale of American furniture from the Joseph Hirshhorn collection and sold to Israel Sack, the New York dealer. Virtually all the collection had been sold to Hirshhorn by Sack and the combined provenance of distinguished collector and distinguished dealer made for very buoyant prices. Only four lots, or 1.4 per cent, was left unsold.

Strong American furniture prices were also secured in a mixed properties sale. In fact, Sotheby's series of Americana sales were uniformly popular, with the exception of a session devoted to folk art and patchwork quilts, the lower end of the market, where 26 per cent was left unsold.

Christie's offered important English and Continental furniture in New York on Saturday. The rise in prices for fine English furniture appeared to have peaked after the buoyant autumn season.

Some 22 per cent of the sale failed to find buyers.

Parliament this week

Commons: Today (2.30): Debate on the new nuclear power programme.
Tomorrow (2.30): Coal Industry Bill, second reading. New Towns Bill, remaining stages. Motion on House of Commons Disqualification Act, 1975.
Wednesday (2.30): Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages. Motion on the Electricity Service (Finance) (Northern Ireland) Order. Private Bill: Lloyd's Bill, report stage.
Thursday (2.30): Debate on an Opposition motion on the need to improve the lot of the elderly.
Friday (9.30): Private Members' Bills: Planning Inquiries (Attendance of Public) Bill and Death Grant Increase Bill, second readings.

Select committees: Today: Foreign Affairs. Subject: Caribbean and Central America: British approach to stability, security and development. Witness: Miss J Pearce (4.30).
Treasury and Civil Service. Subject: Budgetary reform. Witnesses: Treasury officials (4.30).
Tomorrow: Environment. Subject: Private rented housing sector. Witnesses: Small Landlords Association (4); Professor David Donnison (5).
Wednesday. Defence. Subject: Ministry of Defence organisation and procurement. Witnesses: British Shipbuilders (10.30).
Scottish Affairs. Subject: Rural road passenger transport and ferries in Scotland. Witnesses: Scottish Office (10.30).
Home Affairs. Subject: Police complaints procedure. Witnesses: Association of Chief Police Officers. Director of Public Prosecutions (10.45).
Public Accounts. Subject: University Grants Committee control of university [illegible] ment of [illegible]. Witnesses: Department [illegible] Dr E Parkes [illegible] Committee [illegible].
Social Services. [illegible] retirement [illegible] of British Industry [illegible].
Transport. [illegible] in London [illegible] port Executive [illegible] Masefield and [illegible].
Employment. [illegible] industrial relations [illegible] ness: Mr Norman Tebbit [illegible] State for Employment [illegible].
Energy. [illegible] and power [illegible] Committee [illegible] Energy (4.30) [illegible].
Welsh affairs [illegible] Wales. Witnesses [illegible] Authority Land [illegible] and Caldicot [illegible] Drainage Board [illegible].
Thursday: [illegible] Less favoured [illegible] Agriculture Development [illegible] Service: Hill Farming Research Organisation [illegible].

Lords: Today (2.30): Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, committee, third day. Motion on Fishing Vessels (Acquisition and Improvement) (Grants) Scheme.

Tomorrow (2.30): Currency Bill, remaining stages. Social Security (Contributions) Bill, remaining stages. Civic Government (Scotland) Bill, committee, fourth day. Motions on Rates Amendment (Northern Ireland) Order and Electricity Service (Finance) (Northern Ireland) Order.
Wednesday (2.30): Debate on the economic and social effects of over-reliance on market forces. Debate on need to lessen disincentives to undertake part-time higher education.
Thursday (3): Debate on the Scarman report on the Brixton disorders.

Select committees. Tomorrow: EEC subcommittee A (Finance, Economics and Regional Policy). Evidence from Mr William Hopper, MEP, and Mr Neil Balfour, MEP, on borrowing and lending activities of the Community. (4).
Wednesday: EEC subcommittee D (Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs). Evidence will be heard on guidelines for European agriculture from the Grain and Feed Trade Association Ltd. (10.30).
Thursday: EEC subcommittee F (Energy, Transport, Technology and Research). Evidence from the Department of Industry on the multiannual research and development programme of the EEC in the sector of raw materials. (11).

Progress of legislation

Commons. Jan 26: New Towns Bill read a second time. Transport (Finance) Bill passed the remaining stages.
Jan 27: Local Authority Finance (Education Costs) (Report) Bill read a first time. Jan 29: Food and Drugs (Amendment) Bill read a second time.

Lords. Jan 25: Salmon Fisheries [illegible]

Memorial service

Professor R. M. Ogilvie
A memorial service for Professor Robert Maxwell Ogilvie was held in the chapel of Balliol College, Oxford, on Saturday. The Rev Dr P. B. Hinchliff, chaplain, officiated. The lesson was read by Mr David Ogilvie (son) and an address was given by Mr Russell Meiggs. The Master of Balliol College and fellows attended and among others present were:
Mrs R M Ogilvie (widow), Mr Alexandr Ogilvie (son), Miss Isobel Ogilvie (daughter), Lady Ogilvie (mother), Mr and Mrs David Ogilvie (brother and sister-in-law), Mrs D W Roberts (mother-in-law), Miss M E Macaulay, Mrs T Thorlby and Dr Isobel Hardie (aunts), Mr J Ogilvie, Dr and Mrs D G Wilson, Mr and Mrs Keith Rawlinson, Mr Colin Hardie, Mr W F R Hardie.
Lord and Lady Redcliffe-Maud, Baroness Young and Dr G T Young, the Hon Alasdair Morrison, the Hon Peter Brooke, MP, the Hon Henry Brooke, Sir Edgar Williams, Sir Walter Oakeshott, Sir Ronald Syme, OM, Lady Keir, Dame Helen Gardner, the President of Corpus Christie College, the President of St John's College, the Dean of Christ Church, the Principal of Jesus College, and Lady Habakkuk, the Principal of St Hilda's College, the Principal of St Anne's College, the Warden of Nuffield College, the Warden of Rhodes House, Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP, Professor P A Brunt (Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies), Dr R N Franklin (The City University), Professor E J Kenney (Classic Journals Board) Professor F Cairns and Professor Anthony Long (Liverpool University), Mr Jonathan Smith (Tonbridge School), Mr J R Cordray (Oxford University Press), Mrs B Radice (Penguin Books), Mr R St J Pitts-Tucker (representing the governors of Packwood Haugh School), Dr Miriam Griffin (Somerville College), Mr K V Thomas, Dr J G Russell (St Hugh's College); Professors T P Wiseman, H L A Hart, B G Mitchell, J P Barron, F G B Miller, P G H Sanders, Ann Davies, M L West, C Collard and Dominica Legge; Brigadier D W Jackson and Leiutenant-Colonel A and Mrs A Beddoe.

Latest wills

Lady St John Mildmay, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, wife of the late Sir Anthony St John Mildmay, left estate valued at £1,506,059 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Bower, Mr Alfred Clarence, of Bovey Tracey, Devon £363,821
Browning, Mrs Elisabeth Tansley, of Ware, Hertfordshire £314,120
Ingram, Mrs Frances Beryl, of Solihull, West Midlands .£219,695

Church news

Retirements and resignations

The Rev F W Burgess, Rector of Great Oakley, diocese of Chelmsford, to retire on July 31.
The Rev V C Castle, Rector of Creeksea, Latchingdon and North Fambridge, Vicar of Althorne and Rural Dean of Dengie, diocese of Chelmsford, to retire on May 31.
The Rev J D Llewelyn, Vicar of St Simon, Plymouth, diocese of Exeter, to retire on April 30.
The Ven R L Sharp, Archdeacon of Dorset and non-residentiary Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, diocese of Salisbury, to retire on April 30.
The Rev R S Windmill, Curate-in-Charge of Holton, and Acting Team Vicar in the Camelot parishes team ministry, diocese of Bath and Wells, to retire.

Moreover . . . Miles Kington

I have been monitoring the great train drivers' debate with some interest. (As it is now customary to declare an interest, I should explain that I am one of the few major customers in Britain seriously thinking of switching from road to rail, on the grounds that there will be much more room on trains in future if everyone is switching the other way, and that British Rail will be pathetically eager to grant my every whim).

And I can now say that the dispute has been satisfactorily settled, except for the minor matter of the continuing strike, as summarized in the following exchange.

"The train drivers are a moonlighting, skiving bunch".

"Well, if they are, then so is everyone else".

Journalists are notoriously good at dishing it out and bad at taking it, but with a rare and welcome honesty, I have been looking at my own affairs and I can now bear out the findings of that summary more fully than I dreamt possible.

I should explain that the nerve centre of this column is housed in a remote part of the *Times* building, much like any other office, except that instead of the normal *hot beverage dispenser* we have a cold drinks machine at the entrance (gin, whisky, Sernet Branca). Here the full-time team of 10 writers and researchers do all the work that is necessary to produce the column in my frequent and prolonged absences.

(Like all writers and broadcasters, I am forced to spend most of my time making short speeches for large sums of money. There is one *big difference, however.* All other writers can be found opening fetes, new stores, conferences and exhibitions. I make my speeches only at *closing* ceremonies, usually of large factories, railway lines, smelters, small corner shops and old department stores. The money is not so good; but I am the only one in the field and it is an expanding market.)

Last Friday was a typical *day in the office,* I arrived at 10 am, to find no sign of activity whatsoever except for a winking red light on the drinks machine over the lit-up sign: "Time, gents, please!" I switched it off and waited crossly for the staff to arrive — crossly, because I like us to get in at least one full hour of work before *opening time.*

Gradually they drifted in. Bob had walked from King's Cross, where I believe he is an engine driver in his spare time. Dorothy explained she had been working at home on her biography of Roy Jenkins, which surprised me, as I thought she only worked on it at the office. Phil, in party gear, had come straight from an all-night disco — not that he had been having a good time, he explained hastily, but because he is the disco manager. When they had all arrived, I called a meeting.

"Excuse my keenness", I said coldly, "but I have been going through the papers this morning aand I have found a story which might make a column. Mr Michael Scott, aged 30, has become the first-ever black gamekeeer in Britain. Let's see if any of you can turn that into a humorous gem — by lunchtime, if you don't mind".

The results were even worse than I had feared. Three of them had done a parody of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, with an ethnic gamekeeper who would never get past our race relations lawyer. Three others had in*vented a trip by GLC fact*-finders to Kenya, to see how more black gamekeepers could be employed in the wildlife world. There was a parody of Hemingway, there was a reggae song about game-keeping, there was a fake letter from Spike Milligan about the inequity of blood sports and there was an extremely dull piece from Dorothy on Roy Jenkins and wildlife preservation.

"I'm sorry, gang", I told *them. "It looks as if I'll have* to do it myself again. Your pieces are all school magazine stuff. I suppose you realize that since this column started I've had to write *everything?*"

Looking round their solemn faces, I spotted one I didn't recognize. I addressed it.

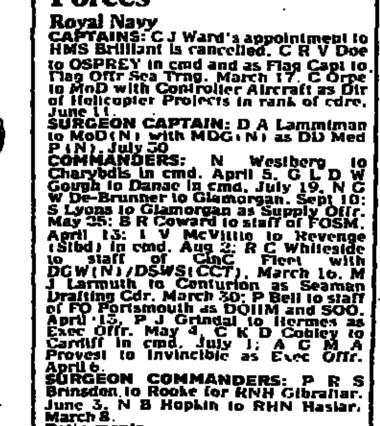
"You, what have you done?"

"Nothing, sir" it said. "I'm not a writer. I am the accountant hired by your team to fill in their expenses forms."

I take no pride in revealing all this. I do claim, however, that I am the first in this whole, sordid debate to have told anything like the truth.

Birthdays today





Mr Robert Gittings, the writer who is 71

Mr Charles Beauchamp, 60; Sir Kenneth Bond, 62; Vice-Admiral Sir Norman Dalton, 78; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, 54; Mr E Evans, 57; Mr Leonard Gribble, 74; Sir Douglas Hall, 73; Sir Gordon Hobday, 66; Lord Johnston, 75; Sir Jack Lyons, 66; Sir Stanley Matthews, 67; Mr John Nott, MP, 50; Professor Mark Richmond, 51; Miss Renata Tebaldi, 60.

Service dinner

Royal Army Service Corps
The RASC (MEF/CMF) Officers' Reunion Club held its annual general meeting and reunion dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand on Saturday. Major H. E. S. Hayward, president, was in the chair and the guest of honour was Field Marshal Lord Carver.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr C. Stewart S. Lyon, Chief Actuary of Legal and General Assurance Society, to be president of the Institute of Actuaries in succession to Mr Antony R. N. Ratcliff.

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy
CAPTAINS: C J Ward's appointment to HMS Brilliant is cancelled. C R V Dod to OSPREY in cmd and as Flag Capt to Flag Offr Sea Trng. March 17. C Orpe to MoD with Controller Aircraft as Dir of Helicopter Projects in rank of cdre. June 11.
SURGEON CAPTAIN: D A Lammiman to MoD(N) with MDG(N) as DD Med P(N), July 30.
COMMANDERS: N Westberg to Charybdis in cmd. April 5. G L D W Gough to Danae in cmd. July 19. N G W De-Brunner to Glamorgan. Sept 10; S Lyons to Glamorgan as Supply Offr. May 25; B R Coward to staff of FOSM. April 13; I V McVittie to Revenge (Stbd) in cmd. Aug 2; R C Whiteside to staff of CinC Fleet with DGW(N)/DSWS(CCT), March 10. M J Larmuth to Centurion as Seaman Drafting Cdr. March 30; P Bell to staff of FO Portsmouth as DOIIM and SOO. April 13. P J Grindal to Hermes as Exec Offr. May 4. C K D Cobley to Cardiff in cmd. July 1; A C M A Provest to Invincible as Exec Offr. April 6.
SURGEON COMMANDERS: P R S Brinsdon to Rooke for RNH Gibraltar. June 3. N B Hopkin to RHN Haslar. March 8.
Retirements
SURGEON REAR-ADMIRAL: F M Kinsman. April 7.
CAPTAIN: C M Robinson. April 22
SURGEON CAPTAIN: P W Head. Feb 15.
COMMANDER: K F Rogerson. March 27: C D Wilson. March 26.

ROYAL MARINES
Retirement
MAJOR: J S Ingram. Sept 11

The Army
MAJOR-GENERAL: C R Huxtable to MOD as DASD. Feb 1.
BRIGADIER: P K Coakley to HQ BAOR as Comd Cons Surg. Feb 2
COLONELS: E H Barker to MOD as Col ASD3. Feb 4: J H C Hordern to HQ Berlin as COS. Feb 5: D H Jenkinson to MOD as CSO (Personnel). Feb 3
LIEUTENANT-COLONELS: E G Archer, RAOC, to P & EE Pendine (PE) (AE) as SO1. Feb 5: A J W Berry, KOSB, to HQ BAOR as SO1 G3 (Ops). Feb 1: W J Bittles, RA, to HQ Berlin (Br Sector) as SO1 G3. Feb 6: R T Cliff, 13/18H, to MVEE Kirkcudbright (PE) (AE) as SO1. Feb 5: H S Hanning, Gren Gds, to MOD as SO1 MDS1(3). Feb 5: I R Haywood RAMC, to 55 FST as Cons in Surg. Feb 1: J J J Phipps, QOH, to OOH as CO. Feb 8: R W Potts, RADC, to 8 Dent Gp as CO. Feb 2: N J Ridley, QO Hldrs, to 1 QO Hldrs as CO. Feb 1: N F Wood, R Sigs, to BAAT Nigeria as SO1. Feb 1.

Royal Air Force
AIR VICE-MARSHAL: J J Miller to MOD as DGPS (RAF). Feb 6.
GROUP CAPTAIN: J Barney to HQATAF as ACOS P & A. Feb 1.
WING COMANDER: R A McEwen to MOD as SM26 (RAF). Feb 1: M L Gans to MOD as SS43 (RAF). Feb 1: B Renyard to HQ RAFSC as AEM. Feb 1: F J H C Lock to HQ STC as EC & PI. Feb 1: A J Pitt to MOD as ENG POL 42. Feb 1: D A N Robertson to RAF Uxbridge as OC RIAC. Feb 1: T E A Eloy to HQ Shape as SO EW. Feb 1: J Ewan to HQ Shape as SO Policy. Feb 1: A E Rylo to HQ 38 Gp for a Fd Force. Feb 5: W E Close to USA on RAF Project. Feb 5.
SQUADRON LEADER (acting commander): P A Day to SCC Hendon as Wg Cdr SRD. Feb 1.

OBITUARY

MR STANLEY HOLLOWAY

Rumbustious Cockney actor and singer

Mr Stanley Holloway, OBE, the actor, who may be said to have made Cockneyism internatonally popular in the role of Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, died at Littlehampton, Sussex, on January 30, at the age of 91. His was an unforgettable presence whether on stage or screen.

Himself a Cockney, he was born in the East End of London on October 1, 1890, the son of a fairly prosperous lawyer's clerk. Local engagements as a boy soprano while he was still at the Worshipful School of Carpenters turned his thoughts towards singing as an enjoyable way of earning a living. When his voice returned to him after breaking, he took the gamble of becoming a professional, and as a member of a concert party at an East Coast resort was spotted by Leslie Henson, who engaged him for his own concert party.

He continued to do work of that type, after an interlude of serious study of singing in Milan, till he enlisted in The Connaught Rangers during *the* 1914-18 War.

After the war it was Henson who arranged for his West End debut in a musical comedy, and who insisted on his being given the chance to sing as well as do his impersonations in the initial programme of The Co-Optimists. This engagement proved, owing to the totally unexpected and obstinate success of what was essentially a concert party with two pianists to play the tunes, the first highspot of Holloway's career. Clad like his fellow Co-Optimists in a pierrot costume, a skull cap and a ruffle, he appeared with them for six consecutive years in the West End and on tour, and he rejoined them on their revival in 1929.

He introduced into the 1929 programme a comic monologue written by himself, in which Sam Small, a North-Countryman in Wellington's army, refused to pick up his dropped musket until asked to do so by the Duke himself. "Sam, Sam, pick oop tha' musket" had originated in Holloway's solo act in variety, and it was followed by other monologues in the characters of Sam Small and of a Cockney named Ramsbottom whose son Albert was swallowed by a lion at the Zoo.

Another successs was about how Anne Boleyn "walked the Bloody Tower with 'er 'ead tucked underneath 'er arm".

Thanks to the popularity of the monologues in variety and on his 12-inch records, which were then priced as high as six shillings, these characters became part of English folklore during the 1930s, and they remained so during the Second World War, when Holloway, having meanwhile made a number of films and played up and down the country in pantomime, returned to the West End in revue, once more in company with Henson.

His postwar role of the First Gravedigger in Olivier's *Hamlet* film inaugurated a Shakespearian phase in Holloway's career which, ten years later, dissolved into a neo-Shavian phase. While he was playing Bottom with the Old Vic Company in New York, Lerner and Loewe indirectly approached him with the offer of the role of Eliza Doolittle's undeserving father in a musical version yet to be written of Shaw's *Pygmalion*.

As a character comedy actor with authentic Cockney and a fine baritone voice, Holloway was their first choice for the part, and eventually, still without having heard the numbers with their "gutsy" music-hall quality, as he later termed it, he contracted to play in *My Fair Lady* not for three years, as requested, but for two. For rather less than that time he remained with the show in the United States, for a further 18 months he was in it at Drury Lane; and in 1964, as a result of merely 15 days spent on the set, he brought off a hat trick by playing his old part in Warner Brothers' film. His rumbustious playing of Doolittle over the years has become a legend.

For his subsequent appearances "live" in the United States, neither a one-man show on Broadway nor a certain four-handed musical proved to be the right vehicle, but on television he was well suited as Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado* (in the United States), and as a butler in a series derived from P. G. Wodehouse (in England), while the supporting comedy roles he had played in David Lean's *This Happy Breed* and *Brief Encounter*, and in Ealing's *Passport to Pimlico* and *The Lavender Hill Mob* made new friends for him, as those classic British films came round again and were seen by the young. He continued to appear in films until late in life.

In 1960 Holloway was appointed OBE. In 1967 he published an autobiography, for which he borrowed the title of Doolittle's first song, *Wiv A Little Bit o' Luck.* His stage appearances never altogether ceased; he appeared in Shaw Festival plays in Canada on two occasions, and toured Australia and Hongkong in *The Pleasure of His Company* in 1977.

By his first marriage he had three daughters and a son, and by his second marriage, to Violet Lane, the actress in 1939 he had a son Julian, the well-known actor. Father and son appeared in an American television series *Our Man Higgins*.

PALDEN THONDUP NAMGYAL

Palden Thondup Mamgyal, OBE, the former Ruler of Sikkim, died in New York on January 29. He was 58, and had been undergoing treatment for cancer.

Prince Namgyal was born on May 22, 1923 and became heir to the throne of Sikkim when his brother, Paljot, died in action while serving with the Indian Air Force.

He helped negotiate a treaty in 1949 which made Sikkim a protectorate of India but, as Chogyal (Ruler) after the death in 1964 of his *father, Sir Tashi Namgyal, he* began working towards independence for his mountain kingdom.

With his American wife, Hope Cooke, whom he married in 1963 six years after the death of his first wife, he endeavoured to modernise his country. But a domestic coup in 1973 and intervention by India, which considered Sikkim of strategic value because of its border with China, ultimately ended his rule.

In 1975 the Sikkimese legislature abolished the monarchy and India later the same year annexed the country.

Although the former ruler retained his title, Chogyal, his movements were restricted. Since 1979 he had been allowed to leave Sikkim and *he made several trips to New* York where his family now were. The marriage ended in divorce in 1980.

The Chogyal had two sons (one died in 1978) and a daughter by his first marriage and a son and daughter by his second marriage.

MAJOR-GENERAL F. H. BROOKE

Major-General Frank Hastings Brooke, CB, CBE, DSO, who died on January 25 aged 72, was born and educated in Cape Province, South Africa.

The elder son of Lieutenant Colonel George Brooke, DSO of co Fermanagh and related to the late Viscount Brookeborough and the late Field Marshal Viscount Alanbrooke, he went to the Royal Military College Sandhurst and was commissioned in The Welch Regiment in 1929.

After service on the North West Frontier, he held various Staff appointments at the *War Office and subsequently* fought in Normandy, commanding the 2nd Battalion The Monmouthshire Regiment, being awarded the DSO and the American Bronze Star in 1945.

After teaching at the Staff College, Camberley, he became Deputy Commander, British Services Mission to Burma in 1948 as a Brigadier, was Deputy Director Military Training (1951-52), commanded the 1st Malay Infantry Brigade and was made CBE in 1954.

He returned to Malaya in 1956 as GOC Federation Army Malaya where he was highly regarded and was awarded a PMN, with the title of Tan Sri — a great honour for a non-Malay. He was made CB in 1958 and retired in 1962, his last appointment having been Chief Army Lecturer at the Imperial Defence College.

He was the last Colonel of The Welch Regiment before the regiment amalgamated *with The South Wales Bor*derers. He was also a member of the Council of the Shipwrecked Mariners Society, a Commissioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and a member of the Itchenor Parish Council.

He married Helen Mary (Jo) Berkeley in 1935, who died in 1973. They had two sons. He married in 1974 Mrs S. N. Carson.

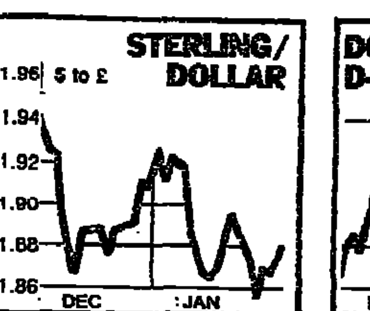
Mr Edmund Calvert, OBE, a former chief fire officer of Brighton, collapsed and died on January 29 as he walked into the Brighton law courts building where he was to sit as a magistrate. He retired from the fire service in 1973, and had been a JP for eight years. He was 69.

General Alfredo Ovando, a former President of Bolivia, died in La Paz on January 24. He was 63.

He twice took power in military coups. He was president in 1966 for some six months and for little over a year from September 1969 before himself being overthrown in a coup.

BUSINESS NEWS

Spotlight on dollar



The dollar will be watched closely this week. European leaders are pressing for a cut in American interest rates which could cause it to weaken. But the disappointing money supplies figures limit the Federal Reserve Board's freedom to bring rates down.

CBI in Market campaign

Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, today inaugurates a CBI campaign for Britain to remain within the EEC with a warning that the jobs of 2.5 million workers in British companies depend on the United Kingdom's continued membership. He said that hundreds of thousands of these would be jeopardized by pulling out.

Oil cut urged on Saudis

Pressure in Saudi Arabia to cut oil production and support falling prices mounted as Ministers from the Gulf Cooperation Council met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday. But Dr Mana Said al-Otaiba, the United Arab Emirates oil minister and president of Opec, said he did not expect an Opec meeting before that set for Qito, Ecuador, in May.

Warning on reflation

A warning that an increase in the money supply of as little as 1 per cent a year could eliminate the British balance of payments surplus has been given by Phillips & Drew, the stockbrokers, in their February economic forecasts.

The firm also expects no average real growth in gross national product between 1983 and 1985. Indeed, after achieving growth this year and in 1983, gnp could contract by 1.5 per cent in 1985.

Inflation is not expected to fall below 10 per cent a year for any significant period between now and the middle of the decade.

Easing tension

Japan has now formally adapted a series of measures to boost imports and soothe growing tension with the West over trade. Mr John Biffen, the Secretary of State for Trade, who is today starting a three-day official visit to Japan will use the opportunity to encourage increased foreign investment in Japan

Export talks

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development opens two weeks of commodity talks in Geneva today to help third world countries improve export earnings by processing their raw materials, such as refining sugar or canning vegetables. Until now, Unctad has concentrated on stabilizing prices for raw materials through buffer stocks and international agreements.

Scanner advance

M & D Technolgy has been set up in Scotland to design and manufacture Nuclear Magnetic Resonance scanners for medical use.

The £400,000 instruments represent a big advance in the screening and diagnosis of cancer. They can give doctors not only an image of organs in the body but also an idea of the biochemical processes taking place.

Prutech, Prudential Assurance's high technology investment arm, is the main shareholder with a 35 per cent stake.

Industry renews fuel bills offensive

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Britain's energy-intensive industries are to step up demands on the Government to cut their fuel bills.

Anger over Whitehall's failure to reduce the disparity between prices paid for gas and electricity by some United Kingdom industries, including chemicals, steel, paper and board, compared with their European rivals, has been simmering since last autumn. It is now set to erupt again.

Two reports produced last year by a task force set up by the National Economic Development Council confirmed the extent of the energy price disparity. The second report published last November showed that in the case of most fuels the gap had closed. Even so, the UK's biggest power users were still paying up to 16 per cent more for electricity than in West Germany and up to 28 per cent more than in France.

The steel industry, which last year paid out £520m for gas, electricity and fuel oil, is spearheading the latest offensive. Steelmakers claim that exchange rate movements in the period since the last task force report have opened up the disparities once more and, worse still, British Gas — at present at loggerheads with Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, over the Government's privatization plans — is demanding quarterly increases of 1p a therm, on renewal of firm gas contracts.

This move is regarded by the British Steel Corporation and by independent steel producers as a reversion to the gas corporation's unrealistic pricing policy following the Government-imposed freeze on renewal prices made in the 1981 Budget. They also see the quarterly increase clause as conflicting with the gas corporation's pledge to apply increases "taking account of market conditions".

Through the NEDC the Iron & Steel Sector Working Party is urging both Mr Lawson and Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, to act swiftly and implement a coherent and positive response against a background of the volume of evidence provided by the task force.

BSC, which claims that its total energy cost disadvantage, compared with its European competitors, is equivalent to an additional £3 on every tonne of liquid steel it produces, is supporting representations made to ministers by the British Independent Steel Producers Association.

Hopes for cutting the industry's £260m a year electricity bill centre on the review of the Bulk Supply Tariff carried out by the electricity supply industry which is now being studied by Mr Lawson. Indications are that any concessions will fall well short of what companies believe is necessary to make them competitive with European steelmakers.

The electricity supply industry is suggesting a modification of its category C load management system implemented a year ago. This provided industrial customers with additional discounts in return for much shorter notice of supply reductions. It appears that the electricity industry is prepared to offer large industrial customers fewer supply reductions and longer notice of them.

The effect would be to reduce by about 5 per cent the price rises which the electricity industry will be introducing for all customers in the spring, and involving increases of about ten per cent.

The steelmakers have told Mr Lawson that they want to be involved in discussion of any changes to the load management structure and tariffs before any decisions are taken.

Heron in new move to stop ACC bid

By Gareth David

Mr Gerald Ronson of Heron Corporation is making another attempt to persuade the small number of voting shareholders of Associated Communications Corporaton to reject the £36m bid by Mr Robert Holmes à Court, the Australian financier, and open the way to further suitors.

Heron says in a letter addressed to the shareholders, which they will receive today from Barclays Merchant Bank, Heron's advisers that Mr Holmes à Court undertook to free ACC directors from accepting his offer in the event of a preferable one.

In summing up at the High Court hearing which turned down Mr Ronson's attempt to stop the Holmes à Court offer, Mr Justice Vinelott ordered an extraordinary meeting of ACC voting shareholders to be held to consider the bid.

Mr Holmes à Court has received commitments from directors representing 63.6 per cent of ACC voting shares and in qualifying his undertaking to waive these commitments effectively reserved the right to decide what constituted a better offer.

This move by Barclays on behalf of Mr Ronson comes on the day Heron is due to go to the Appeal Court to overturn Friday's High Court Ruling that stopped his £46.5m bid for ACC, which was £10m more than the value of Mr Holmes à Court's Bell Group offer.

At Thursday's hearing, Mr Justice Vinelott referred to the ACC's financial position and noted that a sale of assets or long-term borrowings was needed to meet outgoings. "It seems to me wholly understandable that directors in that position could not afford to call Mr Holmes à Court's bluff without possible damaging consequences", he said.

TUC urges campaign to draw foreign investors

By Edward Townsend Industrial Correspondent

The TUC will urge the Government this week to introduce new measures to attract foreign investors to the United Kingdom in a major bid to increase industrial competitiveness and reduce unemployment.

A paper to be delivered by the TUC to Wednesday's meeting of the tripartite National Economic Development Council will argue that the abolition of exchange controls has led to a big rise in the United Kingdom portfolio investments abroad with a subsequent damaging impact on the domestic economy.

The meeting is to be chaired by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and it is likely that industry and union leaders will take the opportunity to widen the debate into a general discussion on the economy, the state of industry and unemployment.

It is to take place just 24 hours after the publication of the Confederation of British Industry's latest quarterly trends survey which is expected to confirm employers' view that a modest recovery of only one per cent is likely in the United Kingdom industrial output this year.

The CBI's last monthly trends survey, issued a few days before Christmas, showed that 65 per cent of manufacturing companies expected their production volumes to remain at their present depressed levels at least until the end of April.

Wednesday's meeting also comes in the wake of the numerous Budget submissions that have now been sent to Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Many of those from industrial organizations call for investment incentives, particularly for small firms, and a lessening of constraints such as the National Insurance surcharge.

The CBI's budget recommendations, expected next week, are also expected to urge a reduction in the surcharge which, it believes, could create up to 200,000 jobs. The employers' organization will also call for a £2,000m

Cable TV report completed

By Bill Johnstone

A Cabinet Office advisory committee has just completed a report favouring relaxation of the present constraints on cable television. The study, prepared by the Committee on Information Technology, takes account of submissions by the National Economic Development Office, Department of Industry, Home Office and interested parties in the television industry.

The report, which is to be published within the next month, is expected to precipitate a statement on the subject by the government about the middle of this year, designated Information Technology Year.

There are seven operators in the United Kingdom who have been allowed to take part in a two-year cable television experiment in more than a dozen locations around Britain in order to gauge the public's response to such a service. They are Rediffusion, Visionhire Cable, Philips Cable, British Telecom, Radio Rentals, Greenwich Cablevision and Cablevision of Wellingborough.

The patent on the PAL colour television system, held by Telefunken of Germany — which prevented the foreign manufacture of colour television sets over 20 inches — will expire in 1983.

Many in the consumer electronics industry who submitted evidence to the Cabinet Office committee on cable television have claimed that a government initiative relaxing the constraints would give a much-needed boost to the British manufacturing industry. Others who have submitted evidence have gone further by suggesting that the use of British equipment in these cable television networks should be a condition for an operating licence.

Two other independent studies on cable television are to start soon. One is by CIT Research, which is also investigation the export potential of System X for the Government and another is by the Broadcast Research Unit.

At the moment there are fewer than two million homes in the United Kingdom wired for cable.



London Metal Exchange: heavy buying of tin.

Malaysia confirms talks on tin cartel

By Michael Prest

A close association between Malaysia and buyers who have pushed up the price of tin by more than £2,000 a tonne has been confirmed by sources in Kuala Lumpur.

Moreover, Datuk Musa Hitam, Malaysian deputy prime minister, said over the weekend that Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia had been discussing setting up a Tin cartel. Bolivia may also join the arrangement.

For the last six months, the London and Penang tin markets have been thrown into disarray by heavy buying, first of tin futures and more recently of spot tin. The purchasers are estimated to have spent £250m acquiring 50,000 tonnes of the metal. The London cash price of tin was £7,882.50 a tonne on Friday.

Sources in Kuala Lumpur say that the vehicle for the buying is a private company called Maminco. This is a acronym for the Malaysian Mining Corporation, the country's main tin mining company which is government-controlled. Both companies have Mr Abdul Rahim Aki as chairman, and executives are believed to have been seconded from MMC to Maminco.

It is understood that mining ministers from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand have met three times since last April, and trade sources in Kuala Lumpur say that these three men have orchestrated the tin buying.

Datuk Musa attacked the United States for "dumping" tin. The United States General Services Administration has been selling tin from its stockpile. This is one of the factors — allied to the cost of the support operation — which has prompted London tin dealers to ask how long those behind the buying can bear the cost.

The high cost of the operation has long given rise to suggestions that only a government or quasi-government organisation could afford it. Two theories are current in the Kuala Lumpur market. The first is that funds have come from the Malaysian state oil company, Petronas. The other is that some of the tin would be included as part of the Malaysia's foreign exchange reserves.

Oil is Malaysia's biggest earner of foreign exchange, but tin remains important. Malaysia is the world's largest tin producer, accounting for some 60 million tonnes out of world production of less than 200 million tonnes. Thailand and Indonesia produce about 30,000 tonnes each and Bolivia around 27,000. The industrial recession has caused demand for tin to decline, and a production surplus of 20,000 tonnes over consumption is expected. Market sources calculate that prices would be £2,000 a tonne less without the support operation.

Union set to test law in Croda bid

By Our Financial Staff

The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, Mr Clive Jenkins's white collar union, has intervened in Burmah Oil's bitterly conteste takeover bid for Croda International in a move which could have far reaching implications.

The union believes its move under the Transfer if Undertakings (Protections of Employment) Regulations 1981, which becomes law today, represents a big step in the development of industrial democracy.

The new regulations required that in the case of a takeover such as this an employer must consult with employees over possible redundancies. The union has 6,000 members at Croda, many in senior management, is demanding to know Burmah's plans.

Sir Alastair Down, chairman of Burmah, and Sir Freddie Wood, chairman of Croda, will today receive letters drawing their attention to the new legislation.

If the union does not get a satisfactory response, it will take its case to the Employment Appeal Tribunal of the High Court. Meanwhile, if Burmah manages to acquire 100 per cent of Croda, the union said that it would consider an injunction to prevent the deal.

"The whole ball-game of takeover battles will now be different", Mr Roger Lyons, national organizer of the Astms, said.

Institutional investors should not regard themselves as free agents in a takeover battle. The union would not take kindly to any institution supporting a bid without all the details.

Burmah said that it believed the union had misunderstood the legislation which gave employees the right to merely consult with their own employer. Burmah could not give blanket assurances to all Croda employees, but the company had no plans to close any part of Croda.

It denied the allegation made by Mr Lyons that Burmah had a poor track record and dismissed the union's reference to the supposedly planned disposal of its Quinton Hazell subsidiary. The car spares company was bought by Burmah about 10 years ago for about £57m and may now be sold for about half this amount.

Quinton Hazell was acquired after a tough battle and employs more than 7,000 people, but as profits have tumbled Burmah is alleged to have decided that it now lies outside its long term plans. But Burmah denied that jobs were at stake and said Quinton Hazell would continue to have the Burmah's support.

Compensation argument reopens

By Ronald Pullen

The argument over the terms offered to Britain's aircraft and shipbuilding groups nationalized by the last Labour Government will be reopened in the next few weeks.

The European Community is now having to thrash out the delicate question of whether or not the compensation offered to companies was fair when the Labour Government decided to take the aircraft manufacturing and shipbuilding industries away from the private sector.

Last year several groups, including warship builders Yarrow and Vosper Thornycroft, Scott Lithgow, Vickers and GEC decided to press their claim for unfair treatment in the Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

The British Government was asked for its "observations" on the claim several months ago. It had been hoped to give a reply to the Commisiion by the end of January but because of the "complicated and difficult issues involved", as the Government claimed in the House of Commons last December, this has been delayed.

The Department of Industry is still preparng its reply but it should be lodged with the Commission within the next few weeks.

Despite its statements while in Opposition that the compensation terms were grossly unfair, the Conservative Government has argued that it cannot now consider retrospective legislation.

All the groups involved have accepted some compensation — GEC and Vickers shared £95m for their stake in BAC, Yarrow accepted £6m for its shipbuilding activities, Vickers took £14.5m for its shipbuilding interests.

But in accepting the terms, they gave warning to the Government that the 1977 Aircraft and Shipbuilding Act had undervalued the worth of their lost assets.

For the time being the petition is being heard by the European Commisiion which will report to the Council of Ministers. The final arbiter, if either side does not accept the Commision's mediation, will be the European Court of Human Rights.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Improvement hopes

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 579.8
FT Gilts 65
FT all-share 330.93
Bargains 20,560
(Friday's close)

Rationalization has cost Reed International £6.5m so far this year.

But third quarter results due on Tuesday should show that the group is well on the way to improving on last year's £50.4m pre-tax, with analysts expecting between £78m and £80m, for the year to March.

At the half way stage pre-tax profits of £38m were up £11m on the previous year and would have been higher but for increased interest charges and the weakness of sterling against the dollar, the currency in which newsprint is priced.

The IPC magazine business was the main contributor to profits at mid-year, after strike losses the previous year.

Besides an improvement in the publishing divisions, Reed's decorative products division is returning to profit and could contribute around £10m to full year profits. There should be a reasonable increase in dividend for the year to around 20p against 18.6p.

Electronics has been a glamorous sector in the recent past but has lost some of its gloss and half-year figures of Unitech due on Tuesday will bear this out and are likely to be below last year's £2.39m at the half-year.

Mr Peter Curry, chairman, gave warning last September that profits for the half year would be down, but said that the year as a whole should be similar to the previous year, when taxable profits amounted to £4.3m.

Depressed United Kingdom markets have been matched by a similar situation in both France and Germany, particularly the latter, where intense competition has badly hit its newly acquired subsidiary Enatechnik.

Dividend for the year should be held at 10p and with the shares at 227p yielding a mere 4.4 per cent

Hillards the York stores group, proved what increased market share could achieve when pre-tax profits leapt 72 per cent in the year to May.

INSURANCE

The Lloyd's Bill reaches a critial stage on Wednesday at its third reading in the House of Commoms with Conservative backbenchers still opposed to the so-called "immunity clause" and threatening a filibuster unless Lloyd's agrees to compromise.

The 'immunity' clause would give a new ruling council protection from being sued for damages by members of Lloyd's and the Lloyd's committee has made clear that it sees the clause as vital it it is to regulate the market properly in the future.

Last Friday, Mr Malcolm Pearson, a Lloyd's broker who has been lobbying against the immunity clause, met Lloyd's chairman Mr Peter Green to try to come to some understanding. But Mr Pearson would only say after the meeting: "We didn't agree but I would still be hopeful that we can."

It is, however, doubtful whether Lloyd's will step down, and if the Bill does not go through on Wednesday, it could fall through lack of parliamentary time.

Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's committee member who has been responsible for steering the Bill through, said the immunity clause had been closely examined at the committee stage of the Bill and Lloyd's had already refined it by proposing an amendment overriding immunity in the case of clerical error. He said it was not possible to compromise now.

But Mr Archibald Hamilton, Conservative MP for Epsom and Ewell who has taken a close interest in the Bill and opposes immunity said that he found Lloyd's attitude quite extraordinary.

The Bill is due for debate betweem 7 amd 10 o'clock and a large number of amendments are being tabled. Mr Hamilton said: "I think it will get talked out unless some compromise is made."

He added that if that happened there was virtually no chance of getting more parliamentary time.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interims:— Electronic Machine, Hillards, R H Morley, Regional Properties, Howard Shuttering, Textured Jersey, Warner Holiday, (8 months) Whitworth Electrical.
Finals:— Kellock Trust.
TOMORROW: Interims — Cowan De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed (9 months), Unitech, Zette4s.
Finals:— IDC, Prestige.
WEDNESDAY: Interims:— McKay Securities, Mid Wynd Trust, Munton Bros, Steinberg.
Finals:— Western Selection, Westminster Properties.
THURSDAY: Interims:— Kinta Kellas Rubber, Malaysia Rubber, Sentrust, Stonehill.
Finals:— Blundell-Permoglaze, Lonsdale Universal Scottish Agricultural.
FRIDAY: Interims: — Burt Boulton,Capital Reserve Fund, Dura Mill, English Associated, M L Holdings, Portsmouth and Sunderland News (9 months).
Finals:— Associated Fisheries, Glasgow Stockholders Trust.

DIARY

Today: Select committee discusses Budgetary reform.
Tommorrow: CBI industrial trends survey for January; United Kingdom official reserves for January; Capital issues and redemptions for January.

Wednesday: Advance energy statistics for December; Commons discusses Lloyd's Bill.

Thursday: Public sector borrowing requirement and details of local authority borrowing for fourth quarter.

Friday: Housing starts and completions for December.

Companies reporting their results this week include Electronic Machine, Hillards, Regional Property, Cowan de Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Reed and Unitech, Westminister Properties, Stonehill, Sentrust, Blundell-Permoglaze, Burt Boulton and Associated Fisheries.

Leading UK role in $250m network

Satellites will link world's ships

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

A $250m satellite communications system comes into operation today which will provide fast, interference-free telephone, telex and data service to and from ships around the world.

Britain will play a major role in the International Maritime Satellite Organizaion, known as Inmarsat, whose headquarters is in a new 21 storey tower in Vauxhall, south London. British Telecom has invested about £13m in the system, the largest share after the United States and Soviet Union.

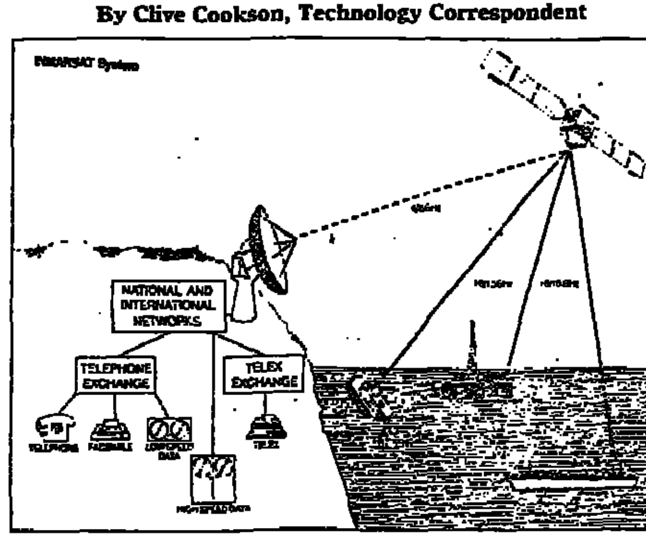
British Aerospace was the prime contractor for two of three main satellites, which Inmarsat will lease from the European Space Agency.

The first, Marecs B will be put into orbit over the Pacific in the spring. The Indian Ocean will be served by circuits leased on one of the Intelsat-V satellites later this year.

The new organization will replace a much smaller American system called Maresat, which has provided limited satellite communications for ships since 1976.

Marchesa Maria Christina Marconi, widow of the wireless inventor sent the first maritime radio message from the Isle of Wight to the American linner St Paul in 1899, will inaugurate Inmarasat today. She will be sending a welcome telex from London to the thousand ships equipped for satellite communications.

Radio communications have been possible for ships for 82 years but they were expensive and unreliable before it became possible to bounce transmissions off a satellite without fading and interference.



The new path via satellite of ship-to-shore messages

The world's merchant fleet consists of 70,000 ships over 100 tons, Mr Olaf Lundberg, director general of Inmarsat, said, so the potential for growth of mobile satellite communications was enormous. The number of vessels equipped with the one-meter dish antenna necessary to transmit and receive satellite communications is expected to exceed 5,000 by 1990.

A chain of coastal stations will collect ship-bound messages from the national and international telecommunications networks and beam them, as microwave signals, to the appropriate satellite. Signals from the satellites will be also relayed by the stations destinations on shore.

Four stations are operating in the United States and Japan.

Call for concerted attack on inflation

It has become "imperative" for industrial nations to break loose from the economic stagflation that has become a "poison to the world economy," according to Jacques de Larosiere, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said, however, that the industrial nations experiencing high inflation, sluggish economic growth and rising unemployment cannot solve these problems by putting the fight against inflation in second place to job-creating mesures and other actions.

"Any let-up in the fight against inflation would mean throwing away the progress that has been made so far in dealing with it," M de Larosiere said.

"To boost demand before inflation has been beaten and supply conditions have been improved can only drive the roots of stagflation deeper," he added.

This appraisal of the world situation and what the industrial countries, in particular, need to do to break what he called the "stranglehold" of economic stagflation was contained in a speech at the European Management Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The IFM chief also urged industrial nations to increase their international cooperation in dealing with economic problems.

Interest rates, are set by the monetary and fiscal policies of the major industrial countries and "an improved mix of policies that would permit a fall of even one percentage point" in Eurocurrency market rates could result in a saving of $2,000m in the external debt service costs paid by the non-oil developing nations.

"More generally the development prospects of so many countries in the Third World critically depend upon the success of the industrial countries in achieving economic adjustment, while keeping their markets open and thereby laying the basis for a strong and sustainable recovery of world trade."

While the developing countries also must undertake "sound" economic adjustments, he stressed that the industrial countries must not igore the "international dimensions" when they frame their own economic policies.

BUSINESS NEWS

ALUMINIUM

Overproduction hampers Invergordon sale hopes

The efforts to find a buyer for the Invergorden smelter, closed by British Aluminium a month ago, are taking place against a continuing slump in demand for aluminium and growing stocks.

The latest survey by the International Primary Aluminium Institute shows that the inventory of the world's producers jumped to 3 million tonnes at the end of November. That is more than a million tonnes more than a year ago and represents a £600m increase in the unsold stocks.

The oversupply is increasing despite the fact that the companies have begun to cut back production. The figure for worldwide primary production in December, just released by the Institute, was 965,000 tonnes, compared to 1,081,000 tonnes in December 1980.

For an industry accustomed to sustained growth it is a severe change. But it takes production back only to the average level of 1978.

The production cuts are most dramatic in North America (down from 489,000 tonnes in December 1980 to 423,000 tonnes in December 1981) and in East Asia (down from 89,000 to 50,000 tonnes).

The Asian slump is a consequence of Japan's realization that it makes little sense to maintain a domestic aluminium industry with expensive imported energy.

Aluminium smelting is one of the most energy-intensive processes invented by man, and it makes sense only if very cheap electricity is available.

The spot price of aluminium on the London Metal Exchange has been around the £600 per tonne level for the past three months, compared with a peak above £900 two years ago. Producers are therefore having to offer customers big discounts on their official list prices, which are generally above £800.

The average production cost of aluminium is now about £700 per tonne (although the actual figure depends on local electricity costs).

Many producers are operating at a substantial loss. For example, Kaiser, one of the leading American producers reported a $11m loss for the fourth quarter of 1981, with revenue down 11 per cent to $700m.

Demand for aluminium has been falling everywhere over the past year, and the slump has been particularly sharp in Britain where the recession has pulled sales down by about a quarter. There is little sign of a strong upturn in the immediate future.

In the long run, the most promising growth areas are the aerospace industry and containers and packaging. Aluminium cans swept through the American soft drink market during the 1970s, and there is still have room for substantial growth in this sector in Europe.

But the short and medium term prospects will make any potential purchasers of Invergordon drive an extremely hard bargain with the Government.

Electricity prices may need to be fixed below 1p per unit if the plant is to break even; British Aluminium had been paying as much as 1.7p per unit on its long term contract.

Clive Cookson

STEEL

Merger approval awaited

The owners of West Germany's second and third largest steel producers are expected to approve plans for their eventual merger later this week.

The creation of a new company, Ruhrstahl, from the steel-making subsidiary of the Krupp group and the Hoesch concern of Dortmund will also lead to the break up of the Dutch-West German Estel group, continental Europe's last transnational company.

The supervisory boards of Krupp-Stahl and Estel Hoesch Werke will meet on Thursday in Bochum and Dortmund with the aim of agreeing the principles for *further* detailed negotiations on the merger.

Krupp and Hoesch have incurred heavy losses because of the crises in the European steel industry and began discussing ways of cooperating more than a year ago. But their forthcoming marriage owes much to pressure from the federal government in Bonn and the state government of North-Rhine Westphalia, which have been refusing to aid the Ruhr steel industry until it produces clear evidence that it is prepared to help itself.

If all goes according to plan, Ruhrstahl will be incorporated some time later this year. The final shape of the company is still unclear. The Bonn Government, which has been impatiently watching the merger discussions from the sidelines, has still to be presented with the corporate strategy that it says is necessary to determine the state aid that the new company will be given.

On the basis of past performance figures, Ruhrstal could produce more than 11 million tonnes of steel a year, could perhaps count on sales of DM 14,000m (£3,200m) and would employ more than 80,000 people. But, as the logic of the merger is to rationalize production and return the companies to profitability, big changes are expected in the structure, capacities and employment levels of the new concern.

Hoesch's existing crude steel-making capacity in Dortmund includes obsolete and uneconomic Siemens-Martin equipment. However, Hoesch is strong in sheet steel production, while Krupp has invested heavily over the past decade in building up its quality and special steel output.

The merger of the two concerns is made more difficult in that a divorce has to be arranged between Hoesch and Hoogovens of Holland, its existing partner in the Estel group.

Peter Norman

SALEM CASE

Stolen oil cargo judgment due

The Court of Appeal is expected to give judgment this week in the case of the Salem, the tanker scuttled two years ago by its owners to disguise the fact that they had stolen its $56m cargo of oil and sold it to the South African Government.

The crew abandoned ship well-supplied with coffee and sandwiches. Their suitcases were packed, which aroused suspicion. To add to the mystery, Oxford Shipping, the shipowners, have now disappeared.



The Salem . . . 'takings at sea' riddle

Shell International, the owners of the oil, has already accepted $30.5m (£16.3m) compensation from the Strategic Fuel Fund Association of South Africa.

But Shell is suing Mr Carl Antony Vaughan Gibbs, Lloyds underwriter for the balance of the cargo value, which it claims is covered under its 200-year-old standard shipping insurance policy.

The main issue before the Court of Appeal is the scope of a clause in the Lloyd's policy which insures cargo against what it calls "takings at sea".

The insurers have refused to pay up because, they say, the "taking" was not at sea because the plan to steal the oil was completed before it was loaded on the tanker in Kuwait, and the cargo was stolen before the Salem ever set sail.

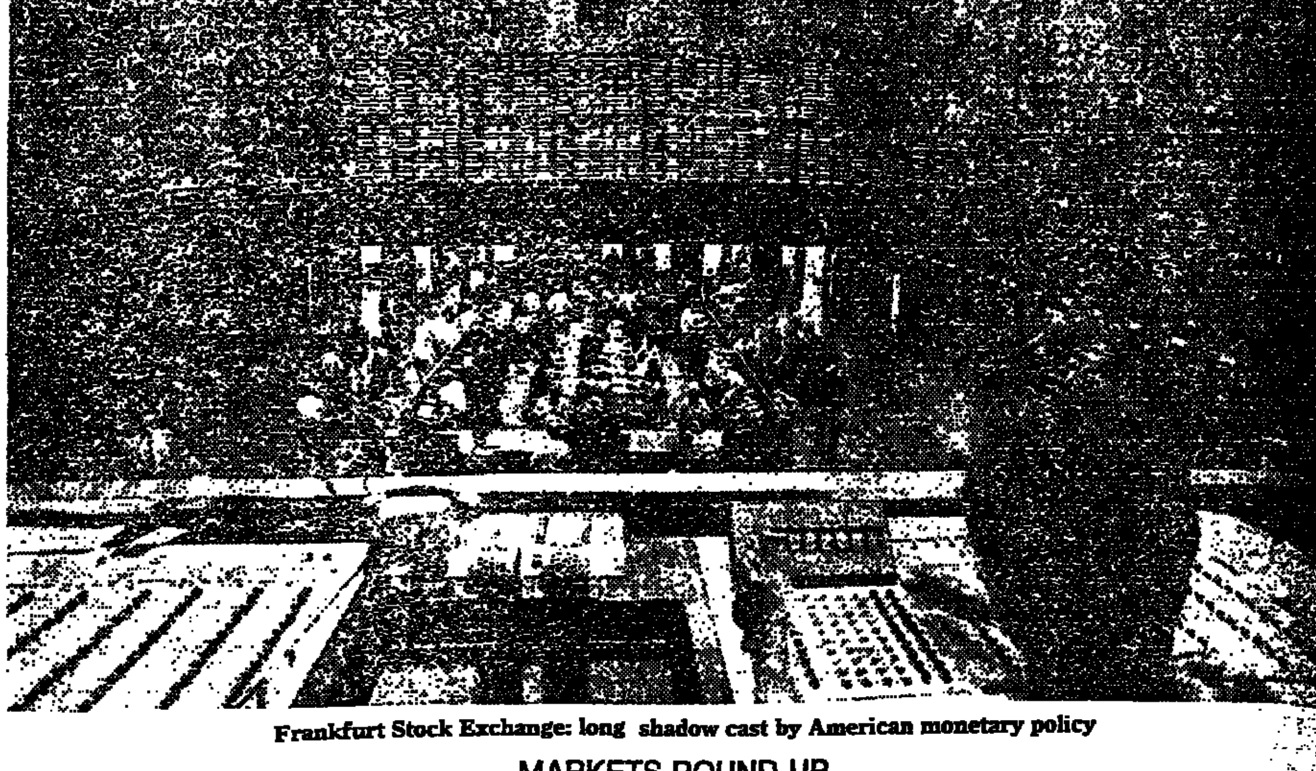
Shell disputes this, countering that something is stolen only when it is physically taken, not when the thief decides he is going to take it. The cargo was not therefore taken until the tanker was diverted from its course to discharge illegally at Durban.

Shell argues that the tanker was taken at sea and that this eventuality is covered by the insurance policy. Its counsel cited the 1981 case of *Grundy v Fulton*, where the judge held that a lorry driver had stolen a load of aluminium when he delivered it to a receiver of stolen goods, and not when he loaded it in his employers' yard with the intention of stealing it.

The insurance company won the case because the goods were insured against theft on the owner's premises but not while in transit.

A second issue is whether or not the Lloyd's policy covers dishonest acts by the shipowner or only by outsiders. The House of Lords decision in the Mandarin Star case of 1969 overturned insurance custom and practice of many years in holding that the cover includes the shipowner.

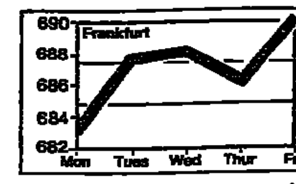
Counsel for Lloyd's claimed the case was wrongly decided. Shell's counsel argues that it has been followed for the last 13 years.



Frankfurt Stock Exchange: long shadow cast by American monetary policy

MARKETS ROUND-UP

Cautious rise in W German share prices



West German share prices nudged higher last week with investors torn between staying away from the market for fear of increases in American interest rate and making selected blue chip purchases on the strength of a marked improvement in the fundamentals.

The long shadow cast by American monetary policy meant that the half point cut in special Lombard rate 10 days ago and last week's record surplus on the West German current account in December failed to translate into a sustained upwards movement. But the Commerzbank index finished the week at a new high of 690.4 for the year to show a useful gain over the low of 666.4 recorded at the turn of the year but well below the 1981/2 peak of 749.

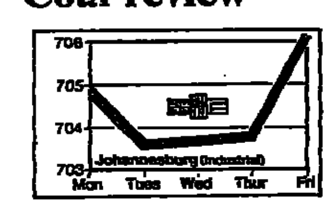
Foreign investors and German investment funds emerged as selective buyers of high quality shares in motors, engineerings and electicals. Daimler was strong on hopes of a better year for the motor industry in 1982 while Siemens held steady, reflecting a growing belief that the share is cheap at around 211 despite a 19 per cent drop in net profit last year.

Concern that United States interest rates might move higher had a negative impact on the Bond market where prices moved narrowly over the week.

For the moment, the formula of "bonds first then shares", which was on the lips of practically every investment adviser at Christmas, has given way to a clear preference for shares, with foreign investors hoping for gains from an appreciation of the mark and an increase in price.

JOHANNESBURG

Coal review



A reassessment of coal share stocks is likely on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange this week after an announcement that the pithead price is to go up by 15 per cent from today.

Recently, the coal board has been depressed because of reports of over-production, stockpiling and fears that the European recession would hit exports. Domestic consumers have now been warned to stockpile themselves ahead of the winter.

One share that should prove interesting ahead of results this week is Kanhym in the Gencor (formerly General Mining and Union Corporation) group. Although it is listed in the agricultural sector, it has a big interest in Gencor's coal prospects.

A number of interesting reports are due this week but the market is most anxiously awaiting De Beers while still digesting Central Selling Organization results. Although the market feels that the results are bound to be disappointing, the shares are still holding firm.

GFSA's interim is due and the market expects this will be down too, but is taking the line that the quarterly results were not so bad.

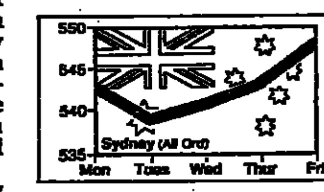
Both Sentrust and UC Investments, also due to report, have fairly large gold holdings although UC Investments has to some extent diversified out of gold and gone heavily into Impala Platinum, which some market sources consider to be just as bad.

Highveld Steel and Vanadium, which is in the Anglo American group, has proved to be a good growth stock over the years although it is being adversely affected by the overseas recession. Local demand for steel, however, remains high.

Interest is expected to remain high in the stores sector, where Greatermans, quoted in London, and John Orr have registered some quite wide price movements over the past week. Greatermans reported poor first half results at the beginning of last week and dropped 150 cents. On Friday it put on 200 cents in heavy trading.

AUSTRALIA

One to watch



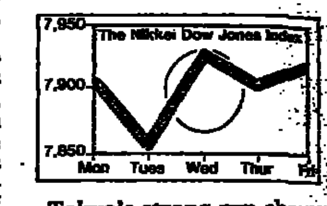
One of the companies to watch is Associated Pulp and Paper Mills, the paper-making giant which is at the top of those expected to announce half yearly profits this week. The group increased its 1980-81 earnings 40 per cent.

Sir William Vines chairman said at November's annual general meeting that the outlook for the year was uncertain and that earnings were down in the first fourth months of the current year. But this week's announcement is nevertheless expected to be encouraging.

Gold Mines of Kalgoorlie (Australia) Limited, despite falling gold prices increased profit slightly from A$7.04m — A$7.23m in the year to June and are looking strong.

TOKYO

Support fades



Tokyo's strong run showed signs of abating last week with many analysts surprised at its failure to respond to the latest wave of support on Wall Street.

Investors appeared preoccupied with the yen's weakness against the dollar and Japan's continuing trade war with the West. Many blue chip stocks came under strong selling pressure after a firm start to the week, with interest diverted to second liners.

Nevertheless, the latest bout of selling will probably be short lived as the influx of foreign investors keen on buying many underperforming leading industrials grows.

Overseas investors own about 6 per cent of the Japanese market, a rise of 2 per cent during 1981. The figure is expected to grow substantially during 1982.

This should encourage many of Japan's domestic institutions.

COMMODITIES

Mixed blessings for boom prophets

Commodity trading, like other financial diversions, is subject to spasmodic enthusiasms, and none has been greeted with as much excitement in recent years as so-called strategic materials. But at last, after being bombarded with a great deal of questionable advice, President Reagan's Administration is said to be on the verge of important policy decision's about strategic metals.

Immediately one should enter a caveat. If the stories leaking from Washington are even partially true, the Administration's policy will be a mixed blessing for prophets of the "super metals boom". The Government is putting what it sees as national interest ahead of private profit, so the combination of the two devoutly wished by strategic metal enthusiasts, may not occur.

It appears that the Administration will announce in the next few months a twofold approach: Congress will be asked to approve bigger stockpiles of materials judged necessary to the security of the nation; and at the same time legislators will be presented with proposals designed to raise domestic production of metals such as chromium, platinum, cobalt and titanium.

The first is good news for those with an interest in strategies: the second may be rather bad news. Investors — more properly called speculators — in these materials have been urging the American Government for several years to accumulate stockpiles, thereby hoping to generate a price squeeze which hitherto this diverse category of commodities has obstinately refused to generate itself.

But if the intention is to build up stockpiles from domestic mining — surely sensible if possible — the impact on prices could be quite the opposite of what investors wanted.

One difficulty facing the Administration is the cost. Even if it has been conspicuously unsuccessful to date, President Reagan's policy is to cut government spending. But according to Washington sources, a programme for stockpiling strategic metals could cost as much as $1,500m (£802m) much of it within the present Administration's term of office.

Congress agreed last July to allow the expenditure of $500m on purcase of strategic minerals during the year to the end of this September.

The irony is that the Government is taking up some of the proposals for relaxing environmental and other restrictions on mining and speeding planning consents, which have been promoted by just the people who favoured strategic mineral stockpiles.

A metals boom could still happen, but on the present showing it will owe little to lobbying in Washington.

Michael Prest

CAPITAL MARKETS

Fed unlikely to win battle of the bulge

From Maxwell Newton, New York, Jan 31

A small decline of $600m (£324m) in the money supply (M-1) has done nothing to ease fears in the money markets that the Federal Reserve will not be able to reverse the $20,000m bulge of the last 12 weeks.

Bonds will now tend to remain weak and there is an increasing likelihood of a rise in the prime rate from its present level of 15.75 per cent. The 90-day certificates of deposit rate jumped from 11.6 per cent in the week ending December 4 when the last drop in the prime occurred,to an average of more than 14 per cent last week.

The downward trend of the economy is, however, more likely to be arrested as the great money explosion since the end of October works to arrest the decline in nominal gross national product (gnp).

This added buoyancy, heavily affected by the rise in m-1 which has been going up at an annual rate of more than 20 per cent since the last week of October, can be seen in the big drop in initial unemployment claims last week and in the lift in the index of leading indicators.

The strength of gnp may also have had something to do with the short sharp recovery in stock prices on Thursday and Friday, although most opinion on Wall Street believes there must be a big "bear correction" before stocks can be expected to resume a strong upward march.

The hint of spring in the air imparted by the money supply boom may still turn back into winter if Treasury officials such as Mr Beryl Sprinkel and Mr Donald Regan have their way.

They have also enlisted the President in an outright attack on the Federal Reserve and on Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed. The officials are outraged by what has been done and they have said so in as many words in public.

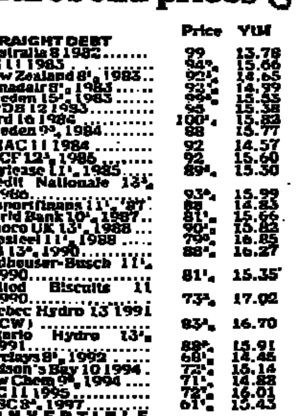
They want Mr Volcker to resign but in the meatime they have certainly damned him with faint praise. Mr Regan said after testimony to the Joint Economic Committee of Congress last week, in which he strongly attacked the Fed's policies and practices, that he was not asking for Volcker's head. "The man is trying" he said.

When the Fed changed tack on the funds rate last Monday, it shot up to over 14 per cent and has averaged 13.98 per cent for the week compared with 12.96 per cent the previous week. This rise was an indication that the Fed was ceasing to push out excess reserves.

Other rates rose in sympathy with the funds rate. Three month Treasury bills rose to 12.99 per cent last week from 12.36 per cent the previous week. Certificates of deposit went up from 13.50 per cent to 14.18 per cent.

These initial adjustments are not unusual after the abandonment by the Federal Reserve of an unrealistic interest rate target. If the Fed continues this newly-relaxed attitude to the funds rate there is the prospect of some moderation in money growth.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)



STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	YTM
Australia 8 1982	99	13.78
ICI 11 1983	94¾	15.66
New Zealand 8¼ 1983	92¼	14.65
Canadair 8½ 1983	93¾	14.99
Sweden 15¼ 1983	99¾	15.55
ARDB 12 1983	95	15.38
Ford 16 1986	100¼	15.82
Sweden 9⅞ 1984	88	15.77
GMAC 11 1984	92	14.57
SNCF 12¾ 1985	92	15.60
Roylease 11¼ 1985	89¾	15.30
Credit Nationale 13¾ 1986	93¾	15.99
Eksportfinans 11¼ '87	88	14.83
World Bank 10¼ 1987	81½	15.66
Amoco UK 13¼ 1988	90½	15.82
Repsteel 11¼ 1988	79⅞	16.85
SIB 13¾ 1990	88¾	16.27
Andheuser-Busch 11¼ 1990	81¼	15.35
United Biscuits 11 1990	73¾	17.02
Quebec Hydro 13 1991 (CW)	83¾	16.70
Ontario Hydro 13¼ 1991	88⅞	15.91
Barclays 8¼ 1992	68½	14.45
Hudson's Bay 10 1994	72¾	16.14
Dow Chem 9⅞ 1994	71¼	14.88
EEC 11 1995	72⅞	16.01
ECSC 8¾ 1997	61½	15.43

CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Price	Conv Prem
Alco Sundra 9½ 1994	90½	4.51
Beatrice 4¼ 1992	66	11.06
Eastman Kodak 4¼ '88	81	11.05
Ford 5 1988	59	96.76
Galveston-Houston 8 1994	94½	0.44
INA 6 1997	133½	-0.77
Lear Petroleum 8 1989	83	20.92
J. P. Morgan 4¼ 1987	102	1.89
Revlon 4¼ 1987	82	7.88
Sperry Rand 4¼ 1988	75	26.37
Warner Lambert 4¼ 1987	72	66.33
Xerox 5 1988	62½	130.22

DEUTSCHMARK ISSUES	Price	YTM
OKB 9 1987	97¼	9.67
World Bank 7¾ 1988	89½	10.00

FLOATING RATE NOTES	Price	Crrnt Yld
BNP 1983	100¼	15.25
IBJ 1985	99.65	13.30
Offshore Mining 1986	97⅞	15.27
Midland 1987	99.85	13.12
Credit National 1988	99.40	15.22
CZB 1989	99⅞	15.92
Barclays 1990	100⅛	14.67
BNP 1991	99.95	19.07
Midland 1992	99	13.85
Chase Manhattan 1993	99⅝	18.82
Nat West 1994	99⅞	16.65
Barclays 1995	100	19.19

Source: Kidder Peabody Securities Limited.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

● Welcome aboard Inter-City People, now standing in column one. Today and each Monday from now, this new column will call at people and places which for the moment you can't be sure of getting a train to, to see for yourself.....

INTER-CITY PEOPLE

CUMBRIA

Survival of the fittest

When Nick Steven left the Army as a captain in the Royal Signals two and a half years ago he used his gratuity to set up Survival Aids, a manufacturer and supplier of survival equipment and rations at Moreland, near Penrith.

Steven says that Survival Aids has survived the last two months of snow, rail strikes and business collapse without recourse to any of the emergency lighting, heating or eating in the Aids catalogue.

He was snowed in and without power in his home *three miles away up on Shap* Fell and had to walk to work. Luckily, the power stayed on *at the Aids plant (there were* 42 degrees of frost outside), most of the workers live in Lorland itself, and most goods are sent by road rather than rail.

"My own biggest survival aid", he told me "is a first class computerized accounts and management information system."

Half of the mail order survival kits go to British soldiers who, Steven says, have to buy their own, because survival aids may only be issued to special units.

SWINDON

Kerbside manner



Dr Jeffrey Cullis

Jeffrey Cullis is giving a new meaning to the phrase "spare part surgery" with a new project called Endeavour Industries.

Dr Cullis, a Swindon general practitioner, is extending his practice to include the treatment of clapped out BL Minis to provide training and jobs for the disabled.

"I looked around for ideas which would involve raw materials that were not in demand, and which could result in a finished product for sale. I saw heaps of old cars lying around, and thought why not try the recycling business?"

Endeavour Industries will provide work for four disabled people at first, supervised by three instructors. Premises have been offered locally, start-up cash is being raised by a trust fund and people are already offering Minis which have failed the MOT.

● *Potholing is something associated neither with Hampshire or Herefordshire. However, John Campbell, who recently retired as consul-general in Italy and settled in Leominster, is running a business of his own, Potholes Company (Hereford). He is licensing the name from Tony Bayles's Alton, Hampshire firm of Potholes International. This sells to licensees a quick-hardening substance called Potholing for repairing roads, car-parks and concrete floors.*

BIRMINGHAM

Light fantastic

Rachel Waterhouse, who succeeds Christopher Zealley as chairman of the Consumers' Association, says she only joined the consumer movement because "terrible things always seemed to happen to me."

Mrs Waterhouse's present this Christmas from husband John, a director of a cancer research unit at Birmingham University, was a light meter

When pointed at a dazzling snow drift, the meter suggested that the correct exposure with high-speed film would be about an hour. "They replaced it pretty promptly," says the Consumers' Association chairperson.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Otto Norland, chairman of Alcoa of Great Britain has been elected president of the Aluminium Federation for 1982. Mr Norland has served on the Federation's Council and International Relations Committee since 1979, and was vice president in 1981. The vice president of the Aluminium Federation for 1982 will be Mr Gerald Howell, managing director of HDA Forgings.

Mr Alan F. Wilkinson has been appointed as managing director of G & M Power Plant.

Mr John Miller, chairman and managing director of UBM Merchants has been appointed a non-executive director of A. J. Gooding Group.

Big challenges ahead for Britain's banks

● Kevin Page examines new sources of competition for the clearers and assesses how they will be able to cope with them.

UK MARKET SHARES HELD BY FOREIGN BANKS

Loans to manufacturing industry in sterling	22%
Other loans to productive industries	9.0%
Loans in sterling to hire purchase, leasing and property companies	31%
Loans to service industries	20.9%
Loans to persons	4.9%
Loans for house purchases	9.1%
Consumer credit loans	3.2%
Share of total UK banking market	17.6%

Source: Financial Statistics May-November 1981.

For the first time, Britain's clearing banks are being forced to fight for their profits.

In the Fifties and Sixties, they faced little competition and were content to expand by opening new branches. The last decade saw the start of competition from the building societies for deposits. But the banks were still able to raise profits from the Barber boom of 1971-73 and thereafter from the endowment effect of unprecedently high interest rates.

Now there are serious challenges to the banks preeminence from the foreign banks in London, the building societies (although bankers are fighting back), National Savings and National Giro. Major restructuring of the United Kingdom banking scene now looks out of the question with the Monopolies Commission's report on the rival bids for Royal Bank of Scotland considered by many bankers to be an historical landmark.

"The Governor has won a comprehensive victory. The Monopolies Commission's veto of the bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland means the clearers are safe from foreign predators". Thus a senior banker last week, reflecting on the Great Battle of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation at which Mr Gordon Richardson defeated the Whitehall free traders.

But others are less sanguine. Foreign bankers have spent the last two weeks searching the Monopolies Commission report with a fine toothcomb to see if it is still possible to buy a British Bank. At Citibank for example, The view is that while a bid for Lloyds, the smallest of the Big Four clearing banks is probably ruled out, the acquisition of perhaps a finance house remains possible.

On the assumption that the four London clearing banks will retain their independence and that there will be some tidying up of share stakes among the smaller brethren like Grindlays, how is the pattern of British banking likely to develop over the next five years or so?

First, the growing challenge of the 400 foreign banks in London must be met and rolled back. As the table shows over a fifth of all lending to manufacturing industry derives from principally American banks who have led the way in providing medium and long-term finance. British banks are now being forced to follow suit and also to lend on the basis of assets as opposed to a company's cash flow. Traditions are being whittled away.

Second, the battle between the banks and the building societies will intensify on two fronts. Over the past 18 months, the clearing banks have grabbed a 15 per cent share of the house mortgage market and are making particular inroads at the upper-price brackets. Despite the recent note of caution sounded by the Bank of England, the clearers are heeding the Government's wish to extend competition on the provision of finance for house purchase. Bankers are now pressing the Treasury for more net tax relief on mortgages.

Additionally, the banks are mounting a campaign to win more depositors from the building societies, which account for 38 per cent of all deposits within financial institutions. There will be more savings schemes, extensively advertised.

Third, all the clearers now have their consumer credit subsidiaries in place following Lloyds topping up its interest in London and Scottish to 60.7 per cent in March last year. Consumer finance provides cream when more traditional banking profits are on a downswing, but there is intense competition from the Americans. Citibank employs 2,300 in Britain and has 41 branches attempting to attract not only loan business but savers' deposits.

Fourth, while it is fair to assume the major expansion in America is now over, there are still opportunities to buy small or medium-sized banks in Europe, particularly in West Germany, Holland and Switzerland. More branches will be opened in key international centres with export finance probably the most lucrative growth area.

However, while the London-based banks face these challenges together, the fifth British clearer, the Royal Bank of Scotland, is presented with special problems following the blocking of the proposed merger with Standard Chartered. The RBS board is now studying its contingency plans and it is thought it has broadly five possible options.

RBS might look to a medium-sized bank in America in its desire for an international presence. An agreed bid at the right price for a bank say in Texas, would reduce dependence on an over-banked home-base and build up a solid dollar deposit base. Corporate finance facilities for Texans who want to invest in the North Sea would be an added bonus.

A merger with Grindlays Bank is the subject of much speculation. Grindlays is a smaller version of Standard Chartered, although the sale of the Dao Heng bank in Hongkong for £70m earlier this month, makes it less attractive to a bidder, except, ironically to Standard Chartered and Hongkong and Shanghai.

But despite large losses in Uganda, unknown debt provisions on lending to Zaire and Poland and unquantified tax losses, Grindlays is the largest foreign bank in India and a force in both the Middle East and black Africa. A merger with RBS would give it the British deposit base which is lacking, uniquely among international banks.

Insiders predict the future of Grindlays, owned jointly by Lloyds and Citibank, will be clarified after years of uncertainty, following the publication of the 1981 report in March.

The third possible route for RBS would be Europe, perhaps by the purchase of a small Dutch or German bank, or alternatively through opening offices in major cities.

However this course might lack the sex appeal after the collapse of the Standard Chartered dream. A fourth option entails RBS concentrating upon the expansion of the English partner, Williams and Glyns which has 2.7 per cent of the British retail market. This course would be deeply ironic since the Monopolies Commission report stressed the Scottish factor as the main reason for vetoing both bids for RBS.

But the report did note that the Scottish arm held 20 per cent of its deposits in London and with W and G contributing just over half of group profits, expansion south of the border was probably inevitable.

Lastly, and also ironic, there is speculation about a merger between RBS and the Bank of Scotland. This would create an undoubted monopoly of banking in Scotland since a combined group would account for around 80 per cent of Scottish deposits. A merger would also be strongly opposed by the very independently-minded Bank of Scotland. But such a deal would create a strong Scottish banking force which the Monopolies Commission report said would be weakened by RBS merging with either Standard Chartered or the Hongkong bank.

Any deal struck by RBS would almost certainly be preceded by the sale of its 39.3 per cent stake in Lloyds

There is also conjecture that Grindlays might be sold to RBS as apart of a deal by which Citibank buys Williams and Glyns. Although the stock market enjoys this kind of rumour from time to time, the Governor's victory over the Hongkong bank makes it very unlikely

So the key to the next five years in British banking appears to be increasing competition, with the building societies and government savings schemes, with foreign banks and with each other. The hope is that without the stimulus which would have been given to the industry had either Hongkong and Shangai or Standard Chartered been allowed to buy RBS Group, there will be sufficient competition for savings, deposits and long-term loans to manufacturing industry, to create a more efficient and sophisticated financial base which is ready to fund economic expansion.

The Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh — A temple to British banking confidence. But did the Monopolies Commission's veto on two bids for the company necessarily herald an embargo on foreign intervention in British banking?

Business Editor

Markets look for higher ground

Optimism is infectious on occasions, and it certainly seemed to be last week. The Cabinet hard-liners had little trouble carrying the "wets" with them in Thursday's consultation over Budget strategy, presumably on the grounds that the economy is starting to look a little rosier each day. And in the City the sharp upward flip on Wall Street on Thursday immediately sent the FT 30 share index climbing to within three per cent of last spring's all-time high.

Through January as a whole the FT index rose by almost a tenth. So the question now is whether there is enough momentum to carry it through any immediate overhead resistance and allow it to break significantly on to higher ground.

The City would certainly love to think that it is within a matter of weeks of getting into a new ball game with the index in the low 600s; and on past experience such quantum leaps tend to happen rather faster than one expects.

Certainly, the London equity market has a number of powerful influences running in its favour at the moment. The authorities would dearly love to see domestic interest rates progressively reduced; the outlook for corporate profits, both this year and next, is bright; rights issues could flow thick and fast but the prospect becomes rather less daunting if one assumes that most fund managers have now completed their major overseas buying sprees; and the political background, though still far from secure as far as City interests go, looks rather less fearsome than six months ago.



Mr Paul Volcker, US Federal Reserve chairman: soothing words

That said, the yield on equities is already down to around five and a half per cent, while high coupon long dated gilts still offer returns approaching 15½ per cent. The piece of string that ties the two together is, of course, reasonably elastic, and even a small change in market perception as to the appropriate size of the reverse yield gap can carry dramatic implications for the capital values of shares.

Last summer the string was suddenly perceived to have stretched to far too soon, resulting in September's dramatic correction in share prices. This time it might just be different if the moment is ripe for the gilt-edge market to make a relatively strong advance. That is an assumption however that still depends both on the Chancellor producing an acceptable (and credible) estimate for the 1982/3 public sector borrowing requirement, and, just as importantly, on nothing happening to upset the applecart in the United States.

On the issue of where American interest rates are destined to go, one can obtain a myriad of views. At the moment, the concensus is slightly more optimistic. With a little help from the soothing words of Federal Reserve Chairman Mr Paul Volcker, the upward trend in rates that followed the previous week's bad money supply figures was quickly reversed. The feeling grew that the worst might just be over.

But it will be interesting to see how markets now respond to yet another disappointing set of American money supply figures that came out late last Friday. The immediate reaction in late New York trading was to push the interest rate upwards again. Will there be a follow-through today, or will the market decide to go along with the Federal view that all the figures at the moment simply add up to a short term hump?

What, moreover, will markets learn this week of tomorrow's meeting of the Fed's open market committee? When the committee reviews the 1982 targets there is no expectation that it will recommend any relaxation of the relatively tight MI target. But there was some speculation last week that it might achieve some valuable room for manoeuvre by basing the starting point for 1982, not on the actual outcome last year — an undershoot — but on the point the money supply would have reached in the final quarter had it come out in the middle of last year's target range.

A little soothing, a little sleight of hand maybe; it all gives some ground for hope. But at the end of it all, the markets know that the money figures need to start coming right fairly soon if cautious optimism is not to be punctured.

For London stockmarkets, then, unknown factor number one is what happens in America. But there is a second unknown too, and that is how far British markets can move independently of the United States.

If American rates do come down, then British rates certainly will as well, possibly quite sharply as the spring progresses. That would be excellent news for both gilts and equities—leaving the midsummer for talk as to whether we were in a new long-term uptrend, or merely destined to see a repeat of 1972 with unemployment and share prices approaching their peak simultaneously.

Perks

Salutory lesson

The public image of the British boardroom has not been at its best recently with well-publicized rows over golden handshakes and what can loosely be called executive benefits.

As far as the latter go, it is not always easy for the outsider to be able to distinguish between the cosy boardroom set-up in which directors can use their positions to make their lives agreeably comfortable, and the multi-faceted remuneration package that may be genuinely essential to recruit or retain key executives.

Moreover, the issue tends to be further blurred by the fact that whatever may appear as rather extravagent and even superfluous benefits, are very often no more than tax-efficient ways of making up total remuneration. In these cases public scorn is often misdirected at companies and would be far better aimed in the direction of governments that frame the tax laws.

But that does not mean that the boardroom is automatically off the hook. Directors serve a number of interests as well as their own, not least those of their employees and shareholders. Executive benefits, perks, remuneration packages, call them what you will, need to be formulated with the interests of the company as a whole, as well as of the recipient executive in mind, particularly when it comes to large capital items like houses.

One cannot, and would not want to legislate on how boardrooms should behave in these matters. But managements need to be reminded of their broader responsibilities from time to time. Where shareholders have to vote on such matters they may not always make the wisest of decisions, but the fact that they occasionally say no, must be thoroughly salutory.

Shadow of UDI over labour movement

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK: UNIONS IN ZIMBABWE

By Steven Taylor

Salisbury

The white mine owner was quite frank about his reasons for crossing the racial divide to join Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu (PF) Party. "I used to have a lot of labour problems but now when there is any trouble I just call in the local commissar and he sorts it out for me.

So cynical an attitude to industrial relations is not necessarily typical in Zimbabwe, or even as effective as the mine boss would imply. Nevertheless it does point to political overtones in the aspirations of the growing body of trade unionists here.

In the past four months there have been three serious labour stoppages, involving teachers, nurses and railway workers. All three have been seen as challenges to the authorities stemming from dissatisfaction with wage increases and have led to government intervention and the arrest of strikers under emergency legislation designed to curb political activity.

But quite apart from frustration over wages, the strikes reflect a widespread confusion in the labour movement. For almost two years after independence, trade unions are still bound by legislation drafted during UDI while at the same time speaking with the fragmented voice that characterizes their history.

Prior to independence the labour movement reflected nothing so vividly as the political divisions and turmoil within the country. Union umbrella organizations centres would be nominally united only to splinter at times of political upheaval, as in 1976 when the National African Trade Union Council broke up into factions supporting three rival nationalist politicians, Mr Joshua Nkomo, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole.

The fact that organized labour had long been a vehicle for covert political activity — leaders such as Mr Nkomo, the Rev Sithole, Mr James Chikerema and Mr Clement Muchachi all served political apprenticeships with trade unions — could not have been lost on the government of Mr Robert Mugabe as it took office.

In February last year the country's first central union body, the Zimbabwe Council of Trade Unions (ZCTU), was established, representing 52 affiliated unions and 200,000 members of all races. Mr Albert Mugabe, a younger brother of the Prime Minister, was elected the first secretary-general.

Meanwhile, in the months following independence, a host of new unions had

Stoppages have led to government intervention and the arrest of strikers under emergency legislation designed to curb political activity

sprung up in fields in which there were already established unions. The new unions, which in some cases accused their rivals of racism and claimed improbable membership statistics, are in many cases led by comparatively inexperienced men with links to the ruling Zanu (PF) party and have been seen in some quarters as an attempt by the party to influence the course of union affairs.

Following recommendations by the Riddell Commission of Inquiry and a Commonwealth seminar, the ZCTU adopted a course of bringing about mergers of unions working in related fields — the object being to establish one union for agricultural workers, one for miners, and so on — which it was proposed would streamline the number of ZCTU affiliated unions to 17.

The call for mergers was not unreservedly welcomed by the established unions, which envisaged being absorbed by bodies which might have a partisan interest, although the profusion of unions was clearly causing confusion.

Last September Mr Kumbirai Kangai, the Minister of Labour, warned that unions had a year to agree terms for a merger. At the end of that time those opposed to unification would be de-registered.

Delicate talks were going on in a number of sector unions when the confusion was compounded by the death of Mr Albert Mugabe, whose body was found in a swimming pool on December 2.

He had been leading the merger negotiations and had been closely involved in discussions on another important issue, pending labour legislation. Although elected to his position by a narrow majority at the inaugural congress, Mr Mugabe had become the distinctive voice of the movement and with no clear successor in sight there was concern that neither issue would receive due attention until a new leader was established in the post.

More than a month after Mr Mugabe's death the ZCTU is still without a secretary-general and there are questions over the delay in succession. Possible contenders include Mr Alfred Makwarimba, the ZCTU president who has been acting as spokesman, and Mr Webster Gwekwerere, the leader of the new mining union.

Mr Anderson Mhungu, a union man of the old school who ran Mr Mugabe to within a vote for the job last year, is thought unlikely to get the job because he is Bulawayo-based and is associated with the opposition Patriotic Front party.



Workers in Zimbabwe: unions are heading for an uncertain future

Meanwhile, despite a statement by Mr Makwarimba that there has been "tremendous progress" with the mergers, negotiations have become bogged down in a number of areas. The long-established Mineworkers of Zimbabwe, which is multiracial and is accepted as being among the most effective labour bodies in the country, is firmly resisting overtures to unite with the recently-formed Zimbabwe Mineworkers' Union.

Negotiations between unions representing farmers and postal workers also appear to have stalled although two graphics bodies have agreed to merge.

There has been even less progress on putting legislation before parliament to replace the discriminatory Industrial Conciliation Act

The first draft of the proposed law combined marxist phraseology with the exhaustive disputes procedure common in the United States. It was passed to the unions for comment midway through last year and they rejected it outright.

The Government has said that it is committed to the principle of collective bargaining and the second draft being prepared at present should outline procedures for strike action.

Until the act is amended the provision remains for the Government to arrest workers who defy orders to return to work. Teachers and nurses were briefly detained in October under emergency powers which have been in force since UDI — and were further extended this month — although the present authorities stated that they would not be used to prevent industrial action.

Earlier this month, railway workers were arrested and brought to court under other legislation which forbids industrial action by workers in strategic sectors.

Mr Brian Fox, an official of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs in Britain, who was here for some months to advise the ZCTU while studying labour affairs, said: "It is a very interesting and important tie, and although it is a confused scene in many respects there is a lot more order than there has ever been before. But there remains a crying need for new labour legislation".

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan. 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

SHIPPING

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
123.4m	Brit & Com	381	+16	19.3b	[illegible]	[illegible]
60.3m	Caledonia Inv	345	+10	20.0	[illegible]	[illegible]
32.1m	Fisher J	141	-2	3.3	[illegible]	[illegible]
8,755,000	Jacobs J. I.	38	..	3.3	8.7	16.3
145.3m	Ocean Trans	129	+4	12.9	10.0	[illegible]
198.5m	P & O 'Dfd'	140	-4	11.4	8.2	[illegible]

MINES

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
354.3m	Anglo Am Coal	£14½	..	51.6	3.6	
1,458.1m	Anglo Am Corp	643	+9	85.4	9.1	
825.9m	Ang Am Gold	£37⅞	+2⅛	615	16.3	
392.5m	Anglo Am Inv	£38¾	+½	504	13.0	
39.3m	Anglovaal	£22	..	167	7.6	
39.2m	Do 'A'	£22	..	167	7.6	
383.6m	Asarco	£12⅞	[illegible]	80.8	[illegible]	
124.0m	Blyvoors	517	+25	108	20.8	
16.9m	Bracken Mines	121	+6	33.2	27.4	
184.9m	Buffelsfontein	£16[illegible]	[illegible]	349	20.8	
—	CRA	163	+3	..		
265.7m	Charter Cons	258	+18	14.8	5.7	
900.9m	Cons Gold Fields	464	+25	35.0	7.5	
1,150.9m	De Beers 'Dfd'	352	+1	43.2	12.3	
85.6m	Doornfontein	£8[illegible]	[illegible]	107	12.5	
649.5m	Vaal Reefs	£34[illegible]	+2⅞	538	15.7	
30.3m	Venterspost	403	+3	44.3	11.0	
7,093,000	Wankie Colliery	28	-1	..		
143.5m	Welkom	546	+27	139	25.5	
5,270,000	W Rand Cons	124	+12	6.9	5.5	
67.3m	Western Areas	167	● +2	23.0	13.8	
404.6m	Western Deep	£16[illegible]	-⅛	222	13.7	
327.0m	Western Hldgs	£22[illegible]	+1½	597	26.2	
610.3m	Western Mining	238	+15	7.0	2.9	
164.4m	Winkelhaak	£13½	+⅛	240	17.8	
22.0m	Zambia Copper	18	-2	..		

OIL

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
26.4m	Ampol Pet	90	-7	3.4	3.8	22.0
4,745,000	Anvil	127	..	..	..	
—	Atlantic Res	180	-19	..	..	
—	Berkeley Exp	344	-18	..	..	
11.1m	Brit Borneo	248	-2	17.6	7.1	15.5
5,486.2m	B.P.	302	-2	28.9b	9.6	4.5
161.2m	Burmah Oil	112	+2	9.3	8.3	4.8
75.0m	Carless Capel	152	-14	3.9	2.6	19.5
19.9m	Century Oils	57	+1	4.0	4.8	8.9
18.1m	Charterhall	52	+3	0.4	0.8	66.5
64.8m	Charterhse Pet	81	..	1.1b	1.3	21.2
393.8m	CF Petroles	£11⅞	-⅛	233	19.6	5.7
—	Collins K.	108	+11	..	..	
—	Damson Oil	464	-17	..	..	
—	Gas & Oil Acre	425	+5	..	..	
127.7m	Global Nat Res	£6[illegible]	+⅛	..	..	
41.9m	KCA Int	117	+4	7.9	6.7	19.6
284.1m	Lasmo	387	+15	174	44.9	12.9
71.2m	Do Ops	£9½	.	90.5	9.5	31.7
72.0m	Do 14% Ln	£96	-6½	1400	14.6	..
12.9m	New Court Nat	39	-3	1.4	3.7	10.1
54.9m	Premier Cons	52	+1	..	..	
224.8m	Ranger Oil	377	+42	..	..	
4,766.0m	Royal Dutch	£17[illegible]	+⅝	123	6.9	3.2
4,126.9m	Shell Trans	380	-4	27.3	7.2	4.9
137.5m	Tricentrol	226	+6	12.0	5.3	9.1
15.6m	TR Energy	78	+1	..	..	34.9
479.7m	Ultramar	446	+10	17.1	3.8	6.9
144.8m	Weeks Petrol	275	..	..	..	23.6

PROPERTY

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
19.5m	Allied Ldn	92	+8	1.9	2.1	18.5
81.6m	Allnatt Ldn	204	+6	6.3	3.1	28.7
4,721,000	Anglo Met	83	+1	1.4b	1.7	..

TEA

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
1,880,000	Assam Frontier	200	..	14.3	7.1	..
11.1m	Camellia Inv	440	..	7.1	1.6	..
15.2m	McLeod Russel	378	+5	11.8	3.1	..
6,678,000	Do 6.4% Cov Pf	145	..	12.0	8.3	..
989,000	Moran	283	+3	7.1s	2.5	..
968,000	Surmah Valley	121	+6	1.4	1.2	..

MISCELLANEOUS

Capitalization £	Company	Price last Friday	Ch'ge on week	Gross div pence	Div yld %	P/E
3,746,000	Calcutta Elec	46	+5	9.1	19.8	..
1,161,000	Essex Wtr 3.5%	£33	+½	500	15.2	..
24.7m	Gt Nthn Tele	£33½	..	150	4.5	12.6
290.4m	Imp Cont Gas	225	+17	11.9	5.3	14.3
1,092,000	Milford Docks	140	+4	0.7	0.5	..
2,767,000	Nesco Inv	133	..	10.0	7.5	..
—	Sunderlnd Wtr	£33	+1½	500	15.2	..

● Ex dividend. a Ex all. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. k Pre-merger figures. n Forecast earnings. p Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free. y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. No significant data.

Football

Ipswich in no state to appreciate the league's bizarre pattern

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

The path to this season's title continues to be strewn with crazy paving. Southampton, who scorned the opportunity to amble to the front of the halting queue at home to Brighton and Hove Albion on December 8, did so at the far end of the country on Saturday. The sixth leaders so far, they stand there for the first time in their 97-year history.

It was fitting that the little man mountain himself, Keegan, should take them to the summit with his nineteenth goal at distant, doomed Middlesbrough, but Thomson's wild penalty was equally decisive. So was Notts County's victory at Ipswich, perhaps the most unexpected result since their triumph at the home of the champions, Aston Villa on the opening day.

Mariner and more significantly, Butcher, were missing at Portman Road, but Thijssen announced his return by nodding-in an equalizer after Mair had given County the lead before the interval. Kilcline and Hooks completed the damage and, with three games against Liverpool to come, Ipswich's wounds must heal quickly. The pavements of Liverpool, as well as Southampton, seem to be lined with gold.

Manchester United, previously glistering at the top, figured in a leaden affair at the Vetch Field. Swansea City, who had also climbed an unscaled peak, led at Christmas but then plummetted with four defeats in five games. In danger of losing touch, they encamped in midfield in an attempt to gather strength and confidence. It was as though the whole contest was gripped by a giant pair of pincers.

Consider the timid strategy of the hosts. Marustik stuck like a limpet to Coppell, Stanley, Robinson and Kennedy were clamped to United's middle, Thompson and Irwin followed obtrusively in the shadows of Stapleton and Birtles. Behind them all, the studious Rajkovic stood on patrol. Adventure was crushed almost beyond recognition and even the two goals that escaped from the untidy mess were squeezed into three minutes.

Kennedy, the latest to take the well-worn trail from Merseyside, and particularly Wilkins, brought a touch of class to a first half that was dominated so strongly by United that Swansea's only chance was created by Stapleton's wayward back pass. Even Curtis was taken too much by surprise to take advantage.

Stapleton was equally wayward when Wilkins opened Swansea's door for him, Birtles lobbed over Davies as well as the bar when Albiston unhinged the Welsh defence with an astute chip and Coppell then spoilt Birtles' clear view of Albiston's cross. All this was before Swansea took a fortuitous lead. When Thompson, not for the first time, hastily hoisted a clearance, both Curtis and Latchford looked well off-side. When it dropped, Curtis picked it up and fired through Bailey's legs.

The Jameses started and completed the second. Leighton, on for the injured Robinson, skipped along the left flank and crossed. It hit Bailey's palm, Latchford's boot and came to rest on the line under the heel of the sprawling McQueen. Robbie James prodded it home from an inch. Irwin almost added a third within the few minutes that Swansea dared to break out but United soon pushed them back inside their shell. There they were happy to stay.

Not so at Maine Road. Manchester City were four up within 36 minutes, Reeves and Francis each helping themselves to a brace. Worthington then replied twice for Birmingham City before the interval. Both sides evidently felt that they had done enough for one afternoon's work and the win took City, recently deposed from the first division throne, up into fourth place.

West Ham United, who started at the top, have gradually worked their way down the table. Yet they beat West Bromwich Albion, who have been travelling in the opposite direction, for the first time in five attempts this season through Cross twice and Goddard. The arrival of the impressive van der Elst, though, may prove to be a turning point.

Of all the unlikely outcomes, one was more than predictable. Arsenal beat Leeds United at Highbury by the only goal, the fourth time they have won by such a score in only nine home games. Vaessen, with his first, is now equal second in the goalscoring list. Arsenal could try a crazier solution than to follow the example of Bolton. Assisted by the wind, he floated in Watford's equalizer at Rotherham from almost 60 yards.



SWANSEA CITY: D Davies; G Stanley, C Marustik, C Irwin, R Kennedy, A Rajkovic, A Curtis, R James, R Latchford, M Thompson, N Robinson. (Sub L James).

MANCHESTER UNITED: G Bailey; M Duxbury, A Albiston, R Wilkins, K Moran, G McQueen (sub, J Gidman), B Robson, G Birtles, F Stapleton, L Macari, S Coppell.

Referee: J Martin (Alton).

Liverpool's march gathers momentum

By Vince Wright
Aston Villa 0 Liverpool 3

To paraphrase Sir Harold Wilson, a season is a long time in football—as Aston Villa have discovered to their cost. Last season's League champions have become this season's chumps and it did not need a team as good as Liverpool to emphasize the fact.

Villa's slide is difficult to explain. What is certain is that if it's not arrested soon they could start next season in the second division. Players like Mortimer and Withe, who were the cornerstone of Villa's title success, have lost their confidence and as the form of individuals has deteriorated so teamwork has suffered. The manager, Ron Saunders, must surely make changes for tomorrow's home match against Sunderland.

Liverpool, as usual, are reaching their peak at just the right time and making rumours that they are a declining force seem absurd. Saturday's victory—their fifth successive away win this year—was achieved with the minimum amount of effort and must have sent shivers down the spines of their rival championship contenders. With Liverpool in this mood, only a fool would bet against their winning yet another trophy.

One suspects that if Liverpool had been a shade more ruthless they would have had six instead of three goals. Perhaps, they had one eye on their League Cup semi-final against Ipswich Town tomorrow. Liverpool slightly loosened their grip at the start of the second half to give Villa a ray of hope. It needed something special, though, to outwit such majestic defenders as Hansen and Lawrenson and Villa were incapable of producing it. Their two best attempts from Geddis came when Liverpool had the game in their pockets.

Simplicity is, perhaps, Liverpool's greatest virtue. They made Villa's moves seem unnecessarily complicated and a third-minute goal by Rush gave a taste of things to come. Villa's central defenders were nowhere to be seen when Dalglish played Rush into space, and the much improved centre forward did not have to strike his shot cleanly to beat Rimmer. There was a daunting inevitability about the outcome after that.

The second goal, after 24 minutes, was another that Villa would not have conceded last season. Rimmer was untypically slow in gathering the ball after Dalglish had mishit a volley and McDermott hungrily accepted the chance. Grobbelaar's uncertainty, and Neal's tendency to panic, were Liverpool's only causes for alarm but with Morley anonymous Villa seldom looked like exploiting these weaknesses.

A bad miss by Cowans, and an unlucky one by Bremner, were a prelude to Liverpool's excellent third goal in the seventy-third minute. McDermott's chip over Rimmer matched the ac uracy of Lee's through pass and completed a day of misery for the Midlands.

ASTON VILLA: J Rimmer; K Swain, C Gibson, A Evans, G Williams (sub, A Blair), D Mortimer, D Bremner, D Geddis, P Withe, G Cowans, A Morley.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; P Neal, M Lawrenson, A Kennedy, R Whelan, A Hansen, K Dalglish, S Lee, I Rush, T McDermott, G Souness.

Referee: D Reev es (Uxbridge).

Wolves with a soft centre

By Tom German
Wolves 0 Sunderland 1

The fuss over the wider issues of Wolverhampton Wanderers' fortunes and policies tended to cloud and perhaps even influence the match itself which was very much from the mould expected of teams in the doldrums.

Sunderland's manager, Alan Durban, felt that the atmosphere and a brief attempt by three or four intruders to emphasize their disenchantment by disrupting play affected Wolves more than it did his own side. If he was right, one wonders how deeply, if at all, the disaffected nobly demanding a change of control at Molineux had pondered the immediate consequence of their behaviour.

Wolves, with such memorable traditions, are not offering a lot to excite their supporters just now, as six consecutive defeats and their smallest crowd of the season on Saturday both underlined. A group of 50 or so met the team coach an hour before kick-off with chants which demanded the departure of the Wolves chairman. They were repeated from the terraces as Wolves slipped behind, then more lustily, along with suggestions for a new manager, by a crowd of about 300 gathered outside the main entrance after the match.

The brief interruption to play came a quarter of an hour from the end when three intruders ran on to the pitch and two of them sat down, as did a similar handful when Wolves lost to Everton last week. The Wolves players coaxed them to leave and police quietly escorted them off. Another lone trespasser later found no one eager to rally to his upraised arms.

The match itself turned on a sudden reversal of direction 10 minutes into the second half. One moment Brazier and Eves were knocking loudly at the gateway to Sunderland's goal in Wolves' best effort of the afternoon; the next Sunderland had counter-attacked and Cooke, playing his first senior match of the season, had squirmed his way through the middle and scored. There was another such incident just before the end when a header by Brazier was cleared off the line. Then the Wearsiders promptly threatened the other end. This time however Pickering aimed wide.

Such highlights came too infrequently however. Flaws in Wolves' central defence had been exposed earlier by the ready running of Cummins and Cooke. Wolves' efforts promised less; Gray and Richards were individuals rather than a cohesive striking partnership and what chances there were evaporated with shots of modest power by Richards and Eves.

Both sides have a hill to climb with Sunderland second from bottom and Wolves a place and two points ahead of them. The Wolves caretaker manager, Ian Ross, detected greater effort from his side on the day. Mr Durban reasoned that if Sunderland beat Aston Villa tomorrow then win their outstanding match, they will move above last season's champions. Hope, like the first shoots of spring, is never far beneath even the most unpromising surface.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: P Bradshaw; G Palmer, J Humphrey, H Atkinson, J Gallagher (sub, R Villazan), G Berry, K Hibbitt, M Eves, A Gray, J Richards, C Brazier.

SUNDERLAND: B Siddall; B Venison, J Hinnigan, R Hindmarch, J Clarke, S Elliott, M Buckley, G Chisholm, J Cooke, N Pickering, S Cummins (sub, A Brown).

Referee: M Lowe (Sheffield).

Joy for Celtic —gloom for Rangers

Celtic forced Aberdeen to call off their chase for the premier division title on Saturday, and Rangers also lost valuable ground on the champions. While Rangers stumbled to a 1—1 draw against Hibernian, Celtic recovered to beat Aberdeen 3—1 and consolidated their position at the top

Celtic stretched their lead to four points over Rangers, who have played one game more, and nine points over Aberdeen. After a spirited fightback at Pittodrie, Celtic's manager Billy McNeill, smugly surveyed the day's results

Aberdeen went ahead in only 58 secdonds before McClusky, Macleod, and McStay, hit back for Celtic. Afterwards Aberdeen's manager Alex Ferbuson virtually conceded that the championship race was over for his club.

The Rangers' manager, John Greig, was angry after a Flavell goal 10 minutes from the end gave Hibernian a share of the points. Flavell's equalizer to Johnstone's first-half effort for Rangers lifted Hibernian into fourth place while St Mirren maintained their grip on the third spot at Dundee with goals from Bone and McAvennie.

Partick Thistle remain firmly anchored at the foot of the table despite managing to collect a point in a goalless draw with Morton. In the third round of Scottish Cup two second-half goals by Sturrock helped Dundee United to a 4—2 win over Brechin City.

West Ham add strength to winning style

West Ham 3 West Bromwich 1

If West Ham are, supposedly, the hard men of the first division as Ronnie Allen said they were, West Bromwich Albion's manager might be questioned as to whether his team are such saints, with two players in danger of being suspended from their Football League Cup semi-final with Tottenham Hotspur.

Mr Allen will know today whether he has the services of Ally Robertson for Wednesday's first leg at The Hawthorns. Albion's experienced defender has accumulated 20 points, 10 less than Statham who could be ruled out of the second leg.

West Ham, no longer soft touches according to Mr Allen, were, it is true, assisted by physical contact but that was the 34th minute collision, involving Albion's goalkeeper, Grew, and full-back Batson, that provided Goddard with his first goal since October 31, following Brooking's cross.

Thereafter, the rampaging runs of Bonds from midfield, where he had been moved in West Ham's reshuffle, led far more directly to Albion's eclipse than any over strenuous methods.

In the 51st minute he picked out Goddard only for Wile to clear against the striker's legs for Cross to score easily. Cross outjumped Grew to head West Ham's third goal but by then Albion had got one back through King, after Parkes had only parried a shot from Cross, who was substituting for the injured Whitehead.



Beaten here by the Notts County goalkeeper Avramovic, Thijssen also surprisingly found himself on the beaten side, although he did score Ipswich's goal in their 3—1 defeat.

Bristol City and Newcastle United: two clubs living on borrowed time

Fans blow the kiss of death

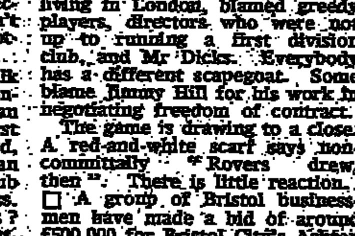
"Had to come this time", a Bristol City supporter says outside Newport station. "It might be the last one". He and three boys from Taunton are waiting to be joined by the 300 or so on the Bristol football special.

When it arrives the occupants jeer their welcome to South Wales. From here on in the local police take over. There is some tribal baiting along the escorted route to Somerton Park. Sullen Welsh youths watch a Bristolian poke out an enormous tongue, simulate masturbation and blow kisses.

Outside the visitors' "compound" a painted slogan says "Bristol will die". Other signs say "Chesterfield RIP", "Exeter are bastards" and poor Chester are something quite unmentionable. "I've brought my black tie", a middle-aged supporter says. "You won't need that, there's plenty of life in us yet", another says.

One of the Taunton boys believes that frustration at relegation and the club's financial difficulties have contributed to the trouble-making of some supporters. "They are yobs mostly, just here for a fight. They've got no jobs and nothing else to do on a Saturday".

"Remember, we're on our best behaviour," a Bristolian says; but the police search, anyway, good humouredly. One officer lets a man with black spiked hair frisk him in return. Few are taken to the police van.



Penned behind the goal, the young bloods taunt their Newport rivals. "You ain't got no money", the chant comes back. To that there is no reply.

Philip, an unemployed Bristolian, aged 19, echoes a plan for a new multi-use stadium with Government backing. Andrew, a fork-lift truck driver, also aged 19, lays the blame on the directors. "Half these directors don't know the first thing about football."

There is much resentful talk of £500-a-week players whose contracts were fixed under Alan Dicks's managership in the first division a lifetime ago. Richard, yet another unemployed Brstolian aged 19, believes that the club should cut prices for the jobless. And the answer to the crisis? "Clough and Taylor", he says.

Bristol equalize and the air is full of leaping fans. These are the real hard core, the faithful 1,000 who have helped swell the attendance to Newport's highest home gate of the season.

Alan Noblet, aged 33, chairman of the London branch of the supporters' club, says the club have ignored the supporters and the finances for years and are paying the price. "Sick, that is how I feel," he says. He believes the club will be liquidated, a new share issue will be made and a new club will be formed—probably called Bristol United.

There is talk of reluctant amalgamation with Bristol Rovers, the local rivals, but some City fans cannot stomach the idea.

Robin Strong, a Somerset man living in London, blamed greedy players, directors who were not up to running a first division club, and Mr Dicks. Everybody has a different scapegoat. Some blame Jimmy Hill for his work in negotiating freedom of contract.

The game is drawing to a close. A red-and-white scarf says non-committally "Rovers drew, then". There is little reaction.

□ A group of Bristol businessmen have made a bid of around £500,000 for Bristol City's Ashton Gate ground. They have been told that it is not for sale.

Mills lends the kiss of life

By John Dougray

The goal that David Mills struck for Newcastle United early in the second half on Saturday in their 2—1 win over Norwich City might prove decisive for his future and could signal a turning point in United's fortunes.

Mills, the 30-year-old West Bromwich forward, has joined Newcastle on loan until March 25 and he has until then to prove his ability and, more importantly, help keep United in the promotion hunt.

If he succeeds and attendances at St James' Park start to pick up, Newcastle could afford the £100,000 that West Bromwich are apparently asking for the player who cost them a then record fee of £516,000 when they signed him from Middlesbrough three years ago.

If Mills fails to make his mark and United suffer accordingly, he will be returned to the Midlands because Newcastle will not be able to afford him. Like most League clubs, they are in straitened circumstances. They have a £400,000 overdraft at the bank and other debts totalling a similar amount. To make matters worse, they do not own their ground. Their joint landlords are Newcastle City Council and the Freemen of the City who own the grazing rights at St James', which is still part of Newcastle's Town Moor.

Although they have a highly successful commercial operation which brings in about £400,000 a year through letteries and sponsorships, United need home gates of 25,000 to break even. Two weeks ago they were knocked out of the FA Cup at home by Grimsby. The attendance was over 25,000. For Saturday's League game the gate was less than 15,000.

It is against this depressing financial background that United's young manager, Arthur Cox, and his chirpy assistant, the wise old Tommy Cavanagh, have to operate. They have done well with the resources they inherited and have developed a youth policy which will presumably bring dividends. Meantime, Newcastle supporters are becoming increasingly disenchanted with the club's seeming inability to get out of the second division.

If it is any consolation to them the club's shrewd and philosophical chairman, Stan Seymour, who took over the job only nine months ago, is well aware of what has to be done to strengthen the team. His father, the late Stan Seymour, helped guide Newcastle to their FA Cup triumphs in the 1950s and Stan junior is anxious to repeat that kind of success in the 1980s.

He concedes that if the present board of directors cannot restore the club's fortunes they may well have to "go public". He has club debts of around £800,000 to reflect on. Ironically, Bristol City still owe Newcastle £80,000 of the £120,000 fee they agreed when they bought United's centre forward, Mick Harford.

That is why Mr Seymour is among the many hoping that City do not go into liquidation. He is also hoping that Mills can keep alive United's promotion hopes. Otherwise they will have to start selling players.

Inspired Davies puts Fulham in front

By Paul Newman
Fulham 1 Chesterfield 0

Malcolm Macdonald probably had in mind the recent experiences of other clubs when he was asked on Saturday how it felt to have gone top of the third division. "Ask me at the end of the season—that's when I shall be delighted to be there," he said.

The Fulham manager has good reason to be cautious. Of the eight clubs who have led the table this season, Swindon Town now lie 22nd, Newport County 17th, Doncaster Rovers 14th, and Gillingham 13th. Indeed, the only team to show true consistency has been Chesterfield, Fulham's opponents on Saturday, and the side they replaced as leaders.

Chesterfield's secret, learned after narrowly missing promotion two seasons in a row, has been a solid defence which before Saturday boasted the best goals-against record in the top three divisions. That record was spoiled by Davies, Fulham's Welsh international striker, who took his total for the season to 17 with certainly the cheekiest if not the best goal I have seen for many months.

It was set up after 21 minutes by Brown's hefty clearance out of defence towards the corner flag on Fulham's left wing. Davies broke through Chesterfield's offside trap and just beat the on-rushing goalkeeper, Turner, in a race to the ball, though by the time he had pushed it past him, Davies was just a few feet away from the corner flag and had his back to goal.

He turned to get in a shot from that seemingly impossible position, however, and to the incredulity of the still-retreating Chesterfield defenders, the ball flew across the turf and skidded into the net. After the match, even Mr Macdonald was nearly lost for words."

The only disappointment for Fulham was the crowd of 9,213 on a day when Mr Macdonald was hoping for a five-figure attendance. Although it was the club's biggest gate of the season, more people might have been expected to attend the third division's match of the day and Fulham's first match at Craven Cottage since November 28.

FULHAM: G Peyton; K Lock, L Strong, S O'Driscoll, R Brown, A Gale, G Davies (sub, D Tempest), R Wilson, D Coney, P O'Sullivan, R Lewington.

CHESTERFIELD: J Turner; G Pollard (sub, A Crawford), S O'Neill, D Wilson, W Green, J Ridley, D Windridge, M Henderson, P Bonnyman, A Kowalski, P Walker.

Referee: L F Burden (Dorset).

Snooker

Confident Davis again takes upper hand

By Sydney Friskin

When a Frenchman made the first cue tip in a Parisian jail, a little over a century ago, he hardly knew what joy his device would bring to millions who follow snooker. Steve Davis, the world champion, and Terry Griffiths, world champion in 1979, tenderly chalked the tips of their cues, without giving a thought for their origin, when they began their 17-frame final of the Benson and Hedges Masters tournament at the Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

A crowd of 2,478 watched the start of the event and at the halfway stage Davis led 5—3.

For Griffiths, at 33, the baby among the Welsh professionals, the scene was all too familiar. He had qualified for the Masters final three years in a row, having won the title in 1980. Davis, who in two years has reached the pinnacle of world snooker, was in the Masters final for the first time.

The record of the meetings between these two players at top level is interesting. In the semi-final round of the United Kingdom championship at Preston in 1980 Davis won 9—0, and in the final of the same event last December defeated Griffiths 16—3 in a scheduled 31-frame match.

But Griffiths, in the months that followed, began a period of restoration, which reached a climax last month when he defeated Davis 9—8 in the final of the Lada Cars Classic at Oldham. It was in this tournament that Davis made the first televised maximum break of 147, a feat that made him look invincible.

So a cautious start in the Masters final was understandable. Griffiths took an early lead in the first frame and held on well to win it. Davis acquiring greater fluency in the second, to clear the table with a break of 30. He had earlier made 36. The third frame, which lasted 33 minutes, fell to Griffiths who played some lovely shots on the colours.

The fourth frame was over in 12 minutes, Davis making a break of 82 which might have reached epic proportions if a red had not popped out of one of the centre pockets, but it was not a clean shot. Nevertheless, he won the frame comfortably. He also won the fifth with a break of 71, but his lead was short-lived, Griffiths taking only 15 minutes to level at 3—3, helped by a break of 64. A good start in the seventh frame put Davis in front again, and he won the eighth in great style to go into the interval with his 5—3 lead.

Both Saturday's semi-final matches were packed with excitement. A revitalized Tony Meo attempted to cancel out Davis's 5—0 lead, pulling back to 5—4 and losing 6—4. More drama was to follow with Alex Higgins fighting back after Griffiths had led 4—1 eventually to be beaten 6—4. Higgins reduced the lead to 4—3, reduced it again from 5—3 to 5—4 and lost the match 6—4 after a desperate struggle.

The 10th frame was memorable, among other things, for a dispute after Higgins was docked seven points for a foul shot, the cue ball having jumped the black, though making contact with it. The referee was right and the stage was reached later when Higgins needed the black ball to stay in the match, Griffiths to win it. Griffiths potted it with a superb shot to end a great day's snooker.

RESULTS.—Semi-finals: S Davis (England) beat A Meo (England), 6—4 (Davis first): 77—37, 114—12, 95—0, 105—22, 82—35, 19—64, 37—101, 26—108, 15—64, 119—6. T Griffiths (Wales) beat A Higgins (Northern Ireland), 6—4 (Griffiths first), 134—4, 80—34, 12—90, 79—51, 103—16, 23—72, 60—65, 1—65, 87—75, 65—63. Final: S Davis (England) leads T Griffiths (Wales) 5—3, (Davis first): 46—66, 96—17, 34—97, 102—22, 90—19, 4—84, 93—17, 114—14.

Golf

Master of the gab as well

From John Ballantine
La Jolla, Jan 31

Could Johnny Miller add his powerful and compulsive speech to his already formidable weaponry of golf shots, he would probably have won more championships than he has. Dynamic verbosity may well be a part of the Californian's success, for listening to his endless monologue after he scored a third round 68 to go into the final day of the San Diego Open here leading Tom Kite by three strokes, it was easy to imagine how auto-suggestive and confidence-building such rhetoric could be on fairways and greens.

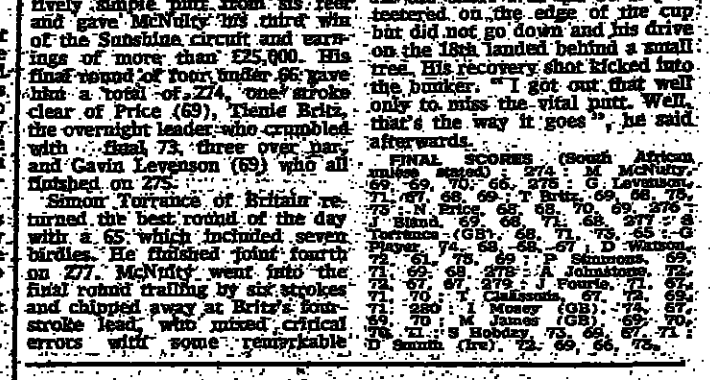
Sample: "I shouldn't say this, but I am probably the best front-runner who ever played the game . . . putting has always been my weakest part except for a period between 1973 and 1975 . . . the finest putters today are Kite, Tom Watson, George Burns and Ben Crenshaw . . . if Jack Nicklaus, who is still the greatest striker of the ball among us, was putting like he used to, we wouldn't have to be out here, we could just mail him the cheques. . . I've won all the tournaments west of the Rockies except this one, and that's some sort of record. . . I'm in the driving seat again, and this (the 7,002-yards south course at Torrey Pines where the tournament ends today) is easily the best public course in the world" (he had obviously forgotten the Old course at St Andrews).

Miller, a very active Mormon lay preacher, occasionally brought in Biblical allusions: "When my ball flew over that green, jeez the people stood aside like Moses parting the Red Sea". And when he is in full flow, some of his studied wisecracks can seem unkind: "The pin placements were so tough you'd have thought Ray Charles (the blind singer) had planted 'em".

Nick Faldo, with a third 69, stood in joint ninth place, and tee-ed off with Nicklaus and Andy Bean while Peter Oosterhuis, who said he "hit a few loose shots" in his 72 was also well positioned to win a good prize on 209 (70, 67, 72). He went out with Dan Halldorson of Canada and Hal Sutton, the former amateur.

LEADING SCORES: 200: J Miller 65, 67, 68. 203: T Kite 72, 65, 66. 204: T Weiskopf 69, 67, 68. 205: T Watson 67, 69, 69; F Zoeller 65, 70, 70. 206: G Burns 71, 65, 70; G Morgan 66, 71, 69; C Strange 68, 67, 71. 207: N Faldo (Britain) 69, 69, 69; J Nicklaus 69, 68, 70; A Bean 70, 66, 71; R Floyd 70, 70, 67. 208: A Geiberger 72, 68, 68; B Rogers 71, 69, 68; T Purtzer 72, 68, 68. 209: P Oosterhuis 70, 67, 72.

McNulty rides the storm



From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Jan 31

Mark McNulty holed a perfect 18-ft putt from the edge of the 18th green to go six under and draw level with the leader Nicky Price in the Sharp Classic at the Killarney course. When Price arrived on the green a few minutes later he missed a relatively simple putt from six feet and gave McNulty his third win of the Sunshine circuit and earnings of more than £25,000. His final round of four under 66 gave him a total of 274, one stroke clear of Price (69), Tienie Britz, the overnight leader who crumbled with a final 73, three over par, and Gavin Levenson (69) who all finished on 275.

Simon Torrance of Britain returned the best round of the day with a 65 which included seven birdies. He finished joint fourth on 277. McNulty went into the final round trailing by six strokes and chipped away at Britz's four-stroke lead, who mixed critical errors with some remarkable recoveries—like a stupendous 60-ft putt at the 17th.

By the 14th, McNulty drew level with Price but then play was held up for an hour because of a violent thunderstorm. Lightning struck a tree close to the 15th green just after Price holde a birdie putt but when play was resumed he appeared unsettled. At the short 17th his 30 ft putt teetered on the edge of the cup but did not go down and his drive on the 18th landed behind a small tree. His recovery shot kicked into the bunker. "I got out that well only to miss the vital putt. Well, that's the way it goes", he said afterwards.

FINAL SCORES (South African unless stated): 274: M McNulty, 69, 69, 70, 66. 275: G Levenson, 71, 67, 68, 69; T Britz, 69, 68, 75, 73; N Price, 68, 68, 70, 69. 276: J Bland, 69, 68, 71, 68. 277: S Torrance (GB), 68, 71, 73, 65; G Player, 74, 68, 68, 67; D Watson, 72, 61, 75, 69; P Simmons, 69, 71, 69, 68. 278: A Johnstone, 72, 72, 67, 67. 279: J Fourie, 71, 67, 71, 70; T Claassens, 67, 72, 69, 71. 280: I Mosey (GB), 74, 67, 69, 70; M James (GB), 69, 70, 70, 71; S Hobday, 73, 69, 67, 71; D Smith (Ire), 72, 69, 66, 73.

Rugby League

Widnes keep on running

By Keith Macklin

The championship of the first division, sponsored by Slalom Lager, is coming more and more a test of the skill and staying power of three teams, Widnes, Leigh and Hull. All three won yesterday and the Widnes victory over Wigan by 20—0 threw down the gauntlet to the other two teams, who must win their games in hand to overhaul the runaway leaders.

Although Widnes scored four good tries, the game overall was a scrappy affair, full of messy scrummaging and handling mistakes. Wigan won a lot of possession from scrums and penalties, but produced no penetration against a tough Widnes defence. Four times Widnes produced classy moves and four times they scored tries through Prescott, Gregory, Bentley and Gorley. Gregory's was the pick, a typically impudent side-stepping run through a startled and flat-footed defence. John Myler kicked four goals, and Tony Myler, of Widnes, and Brendan McLaughlin, of Wigan were sent off for fighting in the second half.

Leigh, as expected, ran away with the game against York's easily punctured defence, and York look set for a quick return to the second division. Hull comfortably beat the unhappy St Helens side by 26—8, a beating which means that St Helen's have conceded 123 points in four recent defeats.

A crowd of 12,000 saw Hull romp away with the game with six tries from O'Hara, Prendiville, Day (two) and Crane (two), with three goals from Crooks and one goal from Lloyd. It seems that Hull Kingston Rovers, with the worst backlog of fixtures, can give up thoughts of the championship.

Leeds, the Jekyll and Hyde team of the first division, produced their Headingley Dr Jekyll form to hammer Rovers 24-8 with the sort of performance Leeds seem incapable of producing away from home. Superb handling and running brought tries for Hague (three), Holmes and Heron (two), and Dick kicked three goals. Lowe and Smith scored Rovers's tries and Fairbairn kicked a goal.

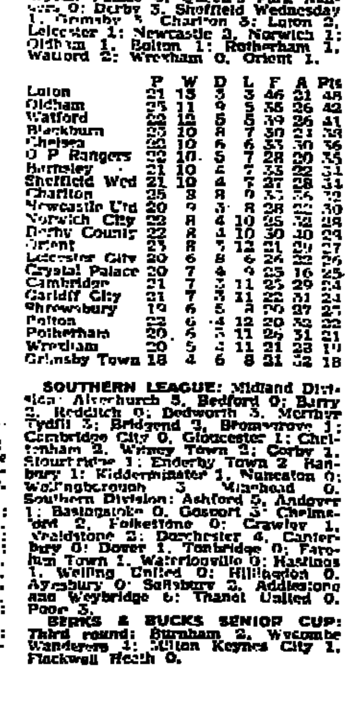
Warrington and Bradford Northern squeezed a point each out of a dour 3-3 draw at Odsal, and Castleford intensified the gloom surrounding Fulham's survival chances by easily beating the injury-hit Craven Cottage side.

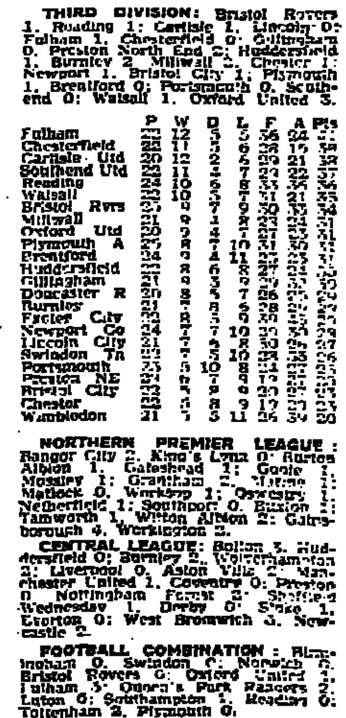
In the second division Oldham leap-frogged above Carlisle at the top of the table by running in more than 30 points against a Cardiff team which, despite their high position, are conceding far too many points to maintain promotion promise.

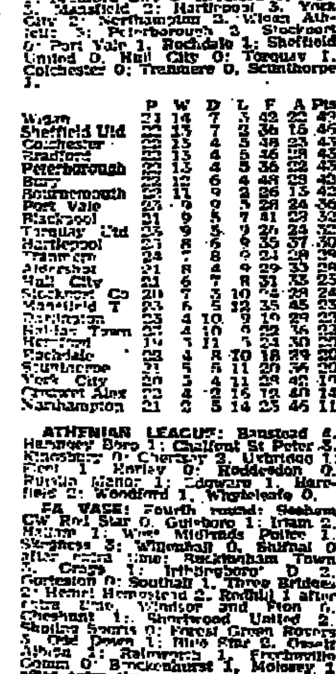
FIRST DIVISION: Barrow 17, Featherstone Rovers 5; Bradford Northern 3, Warrington 3; Castleford 26, Fulham 14; Hull 26, St Helens 8; Leeds 24, Hull KR 8; Wakefield Trinity 15, Whitehaven 12; Widnes 20, Wigan 0; York 9, Leigh 38.

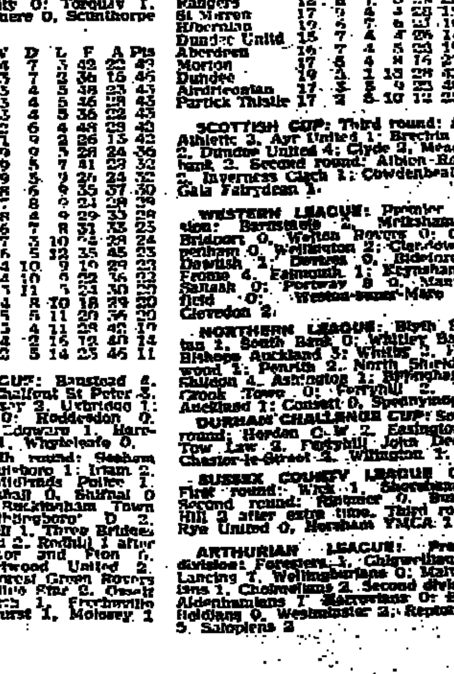
SECOND DIVISION: Batley 12, Keighley 9; Blackpool Borough 8, Swinton 20; Cardiff City 15, Oldham 33; Doncaster 0, Halifax 27; Huddersfield 16, Huyton 9; Rochdale Hornets 3, Dewsbury 10; Workington Town 35, Bramley 3.

les

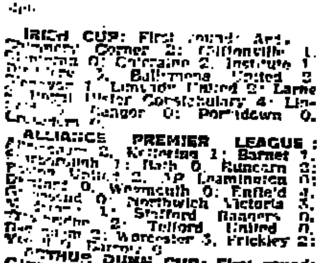














European leagues

FRENCH: Nice 1, Bastia 1; Paris St Germain 2, Strasbourg 1; Lens 0, Monaco 0; Brest 2, Sochaux 1; Auxerre 3, St Etienne 1; Nantes 2, Metz 0.

GREEK: [illegible]

ITALIAN: [illegible]

Today's fixtures

(7.30 unless stated)

FA CUP: Fourth round replay: Orient v Huddersfield Town (8.0). Fourth round, second replay: Wrexham v Chelsea.

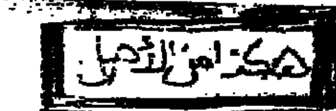
THIRD DIVISION: Southend United v Millwall.

FOURTH DIVISION: Stockport County v Blackpool.

SCOTTISH CUP: Second round, second replay: Montrose v Elgin (at Keith).

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Cup: Third round, second leg: Northwich Victoria v Altrincham.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: [illegible]



Rugby Union

Sutton's cap may mean end of road for Wheel

By Peter West

For their second championship international, against France in Cardiff next Saturday, the Welsh selectors have restored Clive Burgess and Rhodri Lewis at flank forward, brought in a new cap, Steve Sutton (Pontypool) for Geoff Wheel at lock and, less predictably, brought back the British Lion, Ray Gravell in the centre, at the expense of Pat Daniels.

Frailties in the Welsh defence around the fringes in Dublin made it probable that Gareth Williams and Mark Davies were candidates for the axe. Burgess (Ebbw Vale), who was chosen to play against Australia but withdrew with influenza, played throughout the championship of 1977 and against Ireland and France for the last two internationals in 1981. Lewis won four caps in last season's series.

Burgess is a hard man at close quarters; Lewis has pace and aggression. The changes should ensure a greater commitment of security close to the scrummage.

The choice of Sutton, aged 23 and 6ft 5½in tall, may improve the Welsh lineout; he began playing rugby five years ago and has won four Wales B caps. This could mark the end of the international road for Wheel, who has won 32 caps. Wheel broke his nose playing for Swansea on Saturday but by then the selectors may already have made up their minds to look for his successor. Their front row remains unchanged which means that Graham Price soldiers onwards to his 36th consecutive cap.

After the defeat in Dublin there seemed a fair case for leaving the Welsh back division intact. However, Daniels, the Cardiff centre, who had a dashing game against Australia, has been dropped and Gravell will win his 21st cap. Gravell played for the Lions in all four internationals in South Africa in 1980, but in the past two seasons has been chosen only for half of the Welsh championship matches.

WALES: G Evans (Maesteg); R Ackerman (Newport), D Richards (Swansea), R Gravell (Llanelli), C Rees (London Welsh); G Davies (Cardiff), G Williams (Bridgend); I Stephens (Bridgend), A Phillips (Cardiff), G Price (Pontypool), C Burgess (Ebbw Vale), S Sutton (Pontypool), R Norster (Cardiff), E Butler (Pontypool, captain), R Lewis (Cardiff).

Pontypool play to their own limitations

By Gerald Davies

Swansea 13 Pontypool 25

Pontypool are masters of the limited game and if Swansea were to have any chance of winning this Welsh Cup game at St Helens on Saturday they had to release themselves from the forward stranglehold. They were unable to do so and the visitors finally won by the surprisingly comfortable margin of two goals, a try, two penalty goals and a drop goal to a try, two penalties and a drop goal.

Despite the close attention of Perkins and Sutton, the Swansea jumpers, Moriarty, Wheel and Cheeseman, until he was replaced by Clegg, gave the home side a variety of options at the lineout. It was Cheeseman who set up the best move of the match, after Dacey had opened the scoring with a drop goal. Williams and Ruddock combined by setting up a maul from which Dacey and Donovan handled before missing out Rees for Wyatt to come into the line to score. Swansea found points hard to come by but when Wyatt kicked a long penalty they might have felt satisfied.

But in the space of three minutes before the interval Peter Lewis retrieved some of the deficit by kicking two penalties from critical errors by Swansea's back row. First Davies was caught offside and then Ruddock was penalized for going over the top at a ruck.

Even though Wyatt kicked another penalty early in the second half, it was Pontypool's solid pack who gained the upper hand in a game which was now being played to their liking. Reluctant to give their centres even a sniff of the ball, Cannon and Powell, going down-wind, kept the ball in front of the forwards.

When Powell found himself short of time to kick he ran back to join the safety of his pack, only for a charitable Swansea defence to open up and allow him to continue his run. Sutton was on his shoulder to score a try which Lewis converted. Cannon then took matters into his own hands by dropping a goal and then putting a beautifully judged high kick to the corner, which Goss Davies chased to score.

By late in the game, with Swansea desperately attempting to escape this enveloping grip by running the ball from all corners, it was inevitable that Pontypool should score a final pushover try by Butler which Lewis again converted.

SWANSEA: M Wyatt; A Swift, D Richards (captain), A Donovan, H Rees; M Dacey, K Williams; G Willlams, J Herdman, H Hookin, M Ruddock, G Wheel, R Moriarty, M Davies, T Cheeseman (rep. B Clegg).

PONTYPOOL: P Lewis; G Davies, L Faulkner, L Jones, B Taylor, M Powell, S Cannon; S Jones, R Windsor, G Price, J Squire (captain), J Perkins, S Sutton, C Huish, E Butler.

Referee: K Rowlands.

Beaumont must wait for specialist's report

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The England captain, Bill Beaumont, will be seeing a leading neurological specialist this morning after the injury he sustained in the county final on Saturday which left him with blurred vision and pins and needles down an arm.

If the report is favourable, the chairman of selectors, "Budge" Rogers, and the Rugby Union doctor, Leon Walkden, will have the taxing task of deciding whether Beaumont should play against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday.

The union have advised that in cases of this kind, players should take a fortnight's rest. Beaumont will join the England squad training at Stourbridge this evening though taking no part in it: "The decision will be out of my hands" he said yesterday "and rightly so, because I shall keep saying I'm OK".

A worrying aspect about his present troubles is that they have occurred twice before after a blow on the back of his neck—once in the Calcutta Cup match last season and again when Lancashire played at Beders in France last summer.

"The injury I got at Beders was from a boot, which could have knocked me out," Beaumont added. "I don't believe I was concussed on any of the three occasions, because I still know what was going on, but I was left with the problem of judging distance." A specialist told him after the incident in France that it had nothing to do with an inbuilt weakness and that he was no more vulnerable than any other player.

Beaumont was in poor shape shortly after the county final had finished at Moseley, but normal vision had been restored an hour after leaving the ground, there were no sensations in his arms and there was no headache. So his drive home to Lancashire was not a hardship.

If Beaumont is ruled out of the international, the obvious replacement would be his fellow Lancastrian, Jim Syddall. Peter Wheeler would be the senior candidate for the captaincy, and John Scott another (though his lack of match preparation could weigh against him). I believe Steve Smith would react to that challenge as well as anyone.

Beaumont won the first of his 34 caps, against Ireland, in 1975 and has been an ever-present member of the England side since the start of the international against Australia, in Sydney, later that year.

He was in good enough fettle yesterday to take part in a recording of the BBC television programme *A Question of Sport*.

Now England may have an additional problem about the fitness of his fellow lock, Maurice Colclough, who suffered a knee injury in the Scottish international. He did not play for his French club, Angoulême, yesterday as the selectors expected him to do to prove his well-being. He will now be subjected to the sternest of tests at Stourbridge this evening. Steve Bainbridge (Gosforth) has been called up as his potential replacement.

☐ Scott played his second game of the season on Saturday, and his first for Cardiff Arms Park, in his club's 40-9 win over Waterloo, *Peter Marson writes*.

Mr Rogers has already conceded that Scott's selection involved an element of risk but he would have been comforted to see Scott play outstandingly well in Cardiff's triumph.

Scott is no prima donna, but it was impossible to ignore his presence and, it was a fact that he had either a hand or foot in the scoring of five of Cardiff's seven tries. In his lineout work and in the set scrums Scott has formed the smoothest of partnerships with Holmes.

The timing of Scott's jumping at the lineout, and his palming to Holmes, was faultless, and together their expertise was the source of countless invigorating raids by Cardiff's speedy three-quarter line.

Again, Scott's skill and experience in the tight scrummages gave Holmes and two lively flank forwards, Lakin and Golding, an ideal platform from which to embark upon short, sharp sorties from close range. to be played on February 14.

Whistling out of tune

By David Hands

London Welsh 7 Leicester 22

The Leicester coach, "Chalkie" White, was invited by the Rugby Union to address a whistling (if that is the right collective noun) of referees on the subject of "The modern game and the referee" at Brize Norton yesterday. White, a man of firm, not to say stringent, views, changed the title slightly to "The game and the modern referee" and his address, to 40 of England's leading officials, may have had added piquancy in view of the influence of the referee upon the game at Old Deer Park on Saturday.

Leicester won, by a goal, a try and four penalty goals to a try and a penalty, but it was a game punctuated by the strains of Mr Glass's anxious whistle: frustration set in early among the players, there was an unpleasant fracas just before half-time and by the end it was still apparent that, whichever law books the 31 men on the field may have read, some had misinterpreted the small print.

Perhaps, we expected too much, the senses tantalized by a well-worked Leicester try in the opening minutes. Both clubs are capable of fine rugby, though not always against each other, a case of Greek meeting Greek and not welcoming the encounter.

Though Leicester lost the lineout count, largely to Lewis, Watkins and the energetic Parsons, they were comfortable in the scrums and sufficiently adept in the back row at most things the Welsh could throw at them. Behind the forwards they had bigger, and better, guns. Cusworth's replacement, Dodson, possessed of fly-paper hands, and Dodge drove the Welsh back 40 and 50 metres at a time, Evans was more than able to match Clive Rees for speed, if not for guile, and Hare gave George a lesson in goal-kicking.

Not that the Welsh were lacking in adventure in defence of their ground record. David Rees and Davies ran out of defence with elan and Owen, a footballer of considerable merit, scored a splendid individual try from 20 metres out midway through the second half. But of sustained momentum there was none; the advantage law was notable by its absence, Leicester were consistently penalized (22 times against nine for the Welsh), mainly for lineout obstructions.

Hare kicked two penalties in each half and converted his own first-half try after Woodward arced round the back of a set scrum in a planned move. Evans scored Leicester's other try and, if Hare had landed the conversion, it would have brought him his 300 points for the season. George could not convert Owen's try and kicked only one of his five penalty attempts, in the first half.

LONDON WELSH: H Davies; D Rees, M Walbyoff, S Grabham, C Rees; R Owen, I George; T Jones, B Light, B Bradley, K Bowring (captain), R Thomas, E Lewis, M Watkins, G Parsons.

LEICESTER: W Hare; B Evans, P Dodge, C Woodward, R Barnwell; I Dodson, N Youngs; J Deacon, P Wheeler, S Redfern, S Johnson (captain), N Gillingham, M Foulkes-Arnold, I Smith, A Collington.

Referee: R Glass (London).

Forwards earn rich haul

By John Clemison

Wasps 12 Gosforth 23

The best traditions of Northumbrian rugby were displayed at a grey-looking Sudbury on Saturday, where an out-of-sorts Gosforth recovered from an appalling start to beat Wasps by two goals, two tries and a penalty goal to two goals.

Though Gosforth were clearly exhausted after their journey, they mounted the sort of assault on the Londoners that has made the Newcastle side famous.

In possession, Gosforth kept the ball tight in their reshuffled back row and let Simpson, a flanker turned number eight for the day, torment Wasps by holding the ball at the base of the scrum and policing the tail of the lineout. Gosforth's rugby was at its dullest and yet its most effective.

It was inevitable, though, that Gosforth should play to their forwards for, until late in the second half, their backs looked tame against the strong tackling of Taylor and Perkins. Five minutes into the match, the backs had tried a boringly predictable dummy scissors movement in the centre and paid the penalty as O'Reilly hacked the loose ball 35 metres for a try, Stringer converting.

Anderson, Gosforth's menacing captain, soon learnt his lesson and not until Gosforth were well in the lead did he allow Young and Johnson to do much more than grub-kick the ball down the touch line.

This emphasis on solid forward work brought rich rewards to Gosforth, as Anderson and Simpson reduced Wasps to desperate defence through their effective rolling mauls and controlled rucking.

Simpson brought Gosforth level with a well-taken try from a lineout, Johnson converting, and Johnson added a penalty after Ischel had wandered offside at a maul. A fine second-phase ball on the right enabled the Gosforth backs to present Storey with an early ball and the wing was able to sidestep O'Reilly and straighten to beat Stringer and touch down.

Despite facing a stiff breeze after the interval, Gosforth went farther ahead after Simpson accepted Anderson's well-timed pass and went over for his second try, Young converting and Briggs finished off Gosforth's only impressive three-quarter movement with a try in the corner. Late in the game Wasps rallied, Stringer rounding off a tapped penalty move with a try he converted himself.

WASPS: N Stringer; S O'Reilly, I Perkins, M Taylor (captain), P Southern; R Hughes, N Melville; P Rendall, K Bartholomew, A Ischel, J Bonner, P Donaghan, M Leggett, A Dun, R Smith.

GOSFORTH: B Patrick; D Briggs, H Patrick, N MacDowell, J Storey; D Johnson, M Young; C White, J Elliott, J Bell, T Roberts, I Butler, C Gray, R Anderson (captain), P Simpson.

Referee: R G Moore (Hertfordshire).

The joy of rugby: Syddall, the Lancashire lock, joins Cusworth in an unorthodox tackle

Centenary celebration is delayed but not cancelled

By Peter West

North Midlands 3, Lancashire 7

It took the highly-fancied Lancashire side a long time to put their act together in the final of the county championship, sponsored by Thorn EMI at the Reddings on Saturday, and it is ironic that it all happened for them after the enforced retirement of their captain, Bill Beaumont, just before the interval.

The knock which obliged him to come off occurred early in the game and was no help to a Lancashire lineout suffering much anguish at the hands of Davidson at number four for the opposition. But the arrival of the brawny Cusani as replacement for his captain provided Lancashire with an instinctive middle-of-the-line jumper and enabled Syddall, who had been fighting off influenza all week, to move to number two, which suits his style much better.

Seventy minutes of a wholesome contest had passed before Lancashire, with wind and slope in their favour, at last got their noses in front. But by then, the writing was on the wall for their gallant opposition and, in the end, Lancashire were not flattered to crown their centenary season with victory by a try and a penalty goal to a penalty. With better finishing and some luck in the bounce, they might well have fashioned several more scores, though a resolute Midlands defence had its point to make too.

The losers made almost all the running in the first half, harrying characteristically sleepy starters into untidy errors. It was no surprise to learn that Davidson, leaping high at the lineout, had kept goal for Oxford University at Wembley, and the quality of possession he consistently supplied for Morley contrasted starkly with the messy ball Smith was obliged to clean up on the Lancashire side.

North Midlands scrummaged well and their general commitment was enough to draw subsequent comment from their opponents that, physically, it was one of the hardest games they could recall. The adroit Cusworth conducted the piece with typical resource, but his backs could make no headway against Bond and company in the Lancashire midfield; it is fair to observe that his side never seriously threatened to score a try.

Things conceivably would have been different if Metcalfe, strong and secure for the Midlands at full back, had been able to land, say, two out of three long penalty attempts in the early phase. His third shot, from inside his own half, rebounded off a post and it was not until five minutes into the second period that he kicked a comfortable one, for a late tackle on Cusworth, to give his team the lead they had earned.

In the first half, Lancashire had to be grateful for Slemen's long and unerring touch-kicking out of defence and, to a lesser extent, for that of Smith. In the third quarter, their clear renaissance was signalled, first, when Carleton was just thrust into touch at the corner and then when a scoring pass for Dixon went astray after Bond's burst.

Nutt had been replaced by Bowland at No. 8 for the North Midlands when Lancashire laid siege to their opponents' line. From one scrummage, Phil Moss had the ball knocked from his grasp when going over the line. From another, Smith all but burrowed through and then, from yet another, a long pass by Williams had Bond biding his time for Wright to loop outside him and score on the left.

Bond's strength set up a further Lancashire chance, but Carleton took the tackle with Slemen free outside him. Carleton, by way of amends, would have had a try but for putting a foot in touch and the last score was a nice penalty from O'Brien, who never put a foot wrong when under pressure in the early stages.

NORTH MIDLANDS (Moseley unless stated): I Metcalfe; M Fisken, D Shorrock, R Lawson, J Goodwin; L Cusworth (Leicester, captain), S Morley; T Corless, G Cox, S Acaster, R Barr, R Tuckwood, J Davidson, R Sadler (Coventry), D Nutt (rep. I Bowland).

LANCASHIRE: K A O'Brien (Broughton Park); J Carleton (Orrell), A J Wright (Sale), A M Bond (Sale), M A C Slemen (Liverpool); P N Williams (Orrell), S J Smith (Sale); D Tabern (Fylde), M Dixon (Fylde), D V Southern (Orrell), P B Moss (Orrell), W B Beaumont (Fylde, captain) (rep. Cusani, Orrell), J P Syddall (Waterloo), T Morris (Liverpool), K R Moss (Liverpool).

Referee: J A F Trigg (London).

Finn doubtful

Moss Finn, who scored two tries against Wales, is doubtful for Ireland's match against England at Twickenham because of a damaged hamstring. If he fails a fitness test in Dublin on Thursday he will be replaced by the uncapped Instonians wing, Keith Crossan, aged 22.

Club and county clash

Saturday's draw for next season's restructured county championship puts a preponderance of big guns in group one of the top league, signals the worst possible journeying problems for the teams in a similar position in league two, and brings to a head the clash of senior club and county interests in the Midlands, *Peter West writes*.

The North Midlands, in group one of the top echelon, with Lancashire, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire, will surely want to stage their home fixture against Yorkshire at the Reddings on November 13, when Moseley have an away game at London Welsh. But the Moseley committee have minuted that their ground will not be available for county rugby on Saturdays. Coventry have also indicated that they must put their own interests first and will not be enthusiastic to host Warwickshire's league three games against Dorset and Wilts, or Hampshire.

The teams in this year's final will be meeting again at the first time of asking, although North Midlands will be travelling to Lancashire. Lancashire's second group game will be a Roses affair in Yorkshire and their third will give them a welcome home advantage over Gloucestershire.

LEAGUE ONE: Group one: Lancashire, North Midlands, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire. Group two: Notts, Lincs and Derby, Middlesex, Somerset, Surrey.

LEAGUE TWO: Group one: Durham, Cornwall, Kent, Northumberland. Group Two: Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Devon, East Midlands.

LEAGUE THREE: Group one: Warwickshire, Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire, Cumbria. Group two: Cheshire, Staffordshire, Sussex, Eastern Counties.

LEAGUE FOUR: Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire.

The boot of Renwick makes the difference

By Gordon Allan

Anglo Scots 18 South of Scotland 25

Each side scored three tries at Rosslyn Park on Saturday, but the South of Scotland had a reliable goal-kicker who made all the difference. Renwick scored 13 points with the boot and the South, after being 14—7 down just after half-time, beat the Anglo-Scots by two goals, a try and three penalty goals to three tries and two penalties.

This was the first Scottish district championship match to be held outside Scotland. It was also in the nature of a Scottish trial and there was a corresponding intensity of commitment with the South marginally the better drivers and burrowers at ruck and maul. On two counts, therefore, Renwick's goal-kicking and their forwards' hunger for the ball, the South deserved to win.

There was parity at the set scrums, including one heel each against the head. The South had an advantage at the lineout where Smith, in the middle, and Leslie, at the tail, contrived tidier possession than McHarg. In the loose there was little to choose between the hard, constructive work of Biggar, Campbell-Lamerton and Lillington for the Anglo-Scots and Deans and Berthinussen for the South, who were missing the

The losers made almost all the Paxton.

Behind the scrum there was a mixture of enterprise and error. Laidlaw and Rutherford had no trouble in looking more at ease than Ramage and Wilson.

Renwick and Cranston, the old hands, were unable to put anything across Gordon and Hume, the young ones in the centre. Robertson was the only wing not to score. At full back, Grant fielded the high balls immaculately but dithered on one or two other occasions, and Dods did enough to show why he is regarded as the man to follow Irvine.

Renwick kicked three penalties, two of them in front of the posts, and two conversions for the South. He missed only once. Wilson kicked two penalties for the Anglo-Scots but his misses numbered six. Thus was the match won and lost. Deans, Baird and Leslie scored tries for the South and Pollock two and Birkett for the Anglo-Scots.

The Anglo-Scots earned much credit, not least by their tackling. Nobody expected them to have a complete answer to the experience and team work of the South, and yet early in the second half it seemed that another sporting forecast would be proved wrong. The South made sure it was not by scoring 18 points to four during the last 25 minutes. In places like Hawick and Gala local pride means more than it does in Surrey and Middlesex—especially when stung on the rugby field.

ANGLO-SCOTS (London Scottish unless stated): R Grant; J Pollock (Gosforth), J Hume, R Gordon, G Birkett (Harlequins); R Wilson, I Ramage (Gosforth); T Walker, R Cunningham (Bath) (rep. I Kirk), J Fraser, M Biggar (captain), A McHarg, J Campbell-Lamerton, S Pratt, P Lillington (Cambridge University).

SOUTH OF SCOTLAND: P Dods (Gala); K Robertson (Melrose); J Renwick (Hawick), A Cranston (Hawick, captain), R Baird (Kelso); J Rutherford (Selkirk), R Laidlaw (Jedforest); J Aitken (Gala), C Deans (Hawick), R Cunningham, J Berthinussen, T Smith, D White, D Leslie (all Gala), A Campbell (Hawick).

Referee: G Crawford (London).

Weekend results

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Final: North Midlands 3, Lancashire 7.

CLUB MATCHES: Ayr 26, Gordonians 12; Bath 27, Northampton 0; Bedford 7, Rosslyn Park 9; Birkenhead Park 16, Coventry 26; Birmingham 3, Cross Keys 16; Bradford 6, Durham City 21; Bridgend 10, Gloucester 10; Coventry 32, Abertillery 4; Durham University 13, Morpeth 14; Edinburgh Wanderers 7, Boroughmuir 31; Exeter 6, Maesteg 16; Glamorgan Wanderers 23, Tredegar 3; Glasgow High 6, Stewart's Melville FP 15; Harlequins 21, London Scottish 5; Hawick 21, Selkirk 18; Heriot's 30, Dunfermline 7; Jedforest 28, Kendal 3; Langholm 3, Gala 13; Lansdowne 26, Liverpool 11; London Irish 22, New Brighton 9; London Welsh 7, Leicester 22; Loughborough Students 6, Blackheath 16; Manchester 11, Hull and East Riding 9; Melrose 45, Glasgow Academicals 6; Middlesbrough 27, Percy Park 6; Morley 6, Northern 10; Nottingham 7, Cambridge University 12; Nuneaton 23, Guy's Hospital 3; Oxford 3, Metropolitan Police 12; Oxford University 28, RAF 9; Plymouth Albion 29, Clifton 9; Richmond 38, Saracens 10; Roundhay 18, Orrell 6; Rugby 7, Headingley 30; Sale 22, Fylde 7; Sheffield 30, Halifax 7; Streatham and Croydon 4, Vale of Lune 27; Wakefield 22, Harrogate 20; Wasps 12, Gosforth 23; West of Scotland 13, Broughton Park 6; Neath 9, Newbridge 13; Cardiff 40, Waterloo 9.

WELSH CUP: Third round: Llanelli 27, Llanharan 12; Newport 24, South Glamorgan Institute 7; Pontypridd 10, Aberavon 25; Swansea 13, Pontypool 25.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bristol GS 9, Backwell 0; Caldy Grange 0, St Anselm's, Birkenhead 41; Campion 37, Brentwood 0; Christ, Brecon 23, Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol 8; Dartford GS 40, Westcliff HS 0; Eltham 10, Gravesend GS 19; Giggleswick 18, Morecambe HS 0; Haberdashers' Aske's, Hatcham 0, Rochester Maths 9; Hampton GS 6, Wallington HS 6; High Wycombe RGS 16, Latymer Upper 16; Hipperholme GS 11, Ermysted's, Skipton 12; Rymers 13, Leeds GS 0; Judd 12, Maidstone 4; King Henry VIII, Coventry 10, Princethorpe 0; Lichfield Friary 32, High Arcal 3; Loretto 26, Merchiston Castle 6; Malvern 19, Wrekin 11; Mount St Mary's 9, Queen Elizabeth's, Wakefield 13; Newark Magnus 18, Nottingham HS 12; Newcastle RGS 7, Pocklington 18; Portsmouth GS 7, St Peter's, Bournemouth 0; Rydal 27, Belmont Abbey 0; St Edmund's, Ware 0, Richard Hale 6; St George's, Harpenden 4, Broxbourne 4; St John's, Southsea 4, Chichester HS 6; St Mary's, Sidcup 75, Beverley 0; St Olave's GS 19, St Joseph's Academy, Blackheath 10; Silcoates 22, Archbishop Holgate's, York 3; West Buckland 25, South Molton Colts 0; West Park GS 6, Sale GS 7; William Ellis 39, Cheshunt 4; Woodhouse Grove 64, Reeds 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Tunisia 6, Netherlands 18.

Yesterday

CLUB MATCH: Bristol 56, Cheltenham 4.

Skiing

Compound that saved rain-soaked pistes

From Dudley Doust, Schladming, January 31.

Rain fell heavily here today, swelling the river waters and soaking the mountain pistes but, thanks to a chemical compound called Snow Cement, the Alpine world ski championships continued after two days lost to bad weather. The women's combined event was completed with Erika Hess, aged 19, of Switzerland, capturing the gold medal after a pair of skilled runs in the slalom.

She had lain 12th after Thursday's downhill, a handy placing for a girl of her capacities. Miss Hess, the world's leading female slalomist, today virtually assured herself of the gold by winning the first slalom run. She skied it nicely, except for a rough passage midway down, and finished 0.27sec ahead of an American, Christine Cooper, 0.62sec clear of a little French girl, Perrine Pelen.

"In the second race," the charming Miss Hess said later, "I knew I could win the gold medal if I finished the race." She did, after exercising due caution, in the fourth fastest time in the run. It gave her overall victory.

Miss Pelen won the silver medal, Miss Cooper the bronze and Britain's sole entry, Claire Booth, of Scotland, was disqualified for missing a gate in the late stages of the first run.

A word about that Snow Cement is not to promote it (there is enough blatant advertising around here) but because we will see lots of it if the sloppy weather keeps up. Only it can save the championships which, imprudently, were brought to this resort which stands only 2,500 feet above sea level.

Anyway, an inspection was made of the course at 7.30 this morning and at 9.0, two hours before the first race, crystals of the stuff, a refined industrial saline, were strewn down the course. Australian soldiers followed, "boot packing" the snow which then was raked smooth. Officials and skis came next "side-slipping" the surface to a sturdy bluish sheen.

Snow Cementing a course is nothing new to world competitors and, perhaps surprisingly, most of them seem to like it. "It's firm and grippy and it holds up well," Miss Cooper, who is not one to cast about for excuses, said.

What did not seem fair for everybody today was the officials' view of how big and visible advertising marks can be on racers' equipment. On Thursday three Eastern European skiers were disqualified from the women's combined for wearing illegal advertising on their gloves. Officials today stood at the starting hut and picked out 18 racers with illegal markings. Instead of disqualifying them—and they included the three medallists—they merely obscured the offending matter with sticky plaster and sent the skiers on their way.

The wet weather has closed the men's downhill course to practice. The Austrian racers, with the exception of Hardi Weirather, have gone home rather than mooch around their hotel.

There their ski manufacturers will run tests on their skis. This decision arises from charges made by the Canadians and Swiss last week that the manufacturer had supplied them with skis inferior to those given Weirather and another Austrian, Peter Wirnsberger, who skied successfully in the last World Cup race, at Wengen.

RESULTS: 1. E Hess (Switzerland) 1min 22.35sec; 2. P Pelen (France) 1:22.16; 3. C Cooper (US) 1:22.17; 4. D Tlalka (Poland) 1:22.28; 5. A Kronbichler (Austria) 1:23.81; 6. C Nelson (US) 1:24.09; 7. D Zini (Italy) 1:24.18; 8. M Tlalka (Poland) 1:24.21; 9. A Zavadlov (Yugoslavia) 1:24.25; 10. O Charvatova (Czechoslovakia) 1:24.52.

COMBINED: 1. Hess 8.99pts; 2. Pelen 17.95; 3. Cooper 20.96; 4. Nelson 21.21; 5. Charvatova 31.60; 6. Kronbichler 36.75; 7. I Epple (WG) 47.27; 8. Zini 35.09; 9. M Tlalka 65.86; 10. A Levskosek (Yugoslavia) 68.33.

Tennis

Lendl beats off his man and a blustery crowd

From Bryan John
Delray Beach, Florida, Jan 31

Ivan Lendl carried his unbeaten run of tournament matches to 39 when he won the Gold Coast Cup title and the $100,000 that go with it here today. He overcame over four sets a determined Peter McNamara, a difficult blustery wind and a certain amount of hostility from the sun-baked spectators.

McNamara, an Australian who never came to terms with the wind—which, he said, "blew in one ear and out of the other for three sets"—seemed about to suffer a humiliating defeat when he lost the first set and dropped his service with despondent-looking strokes in the opening game of the second.

The match took an interesting turn with McNamara, despite leaving himself no margin for error on his backhand, breaking service for 4—2, losing the advantage three games later and then taking the set at 6—4.

Lendl, aged 21, showed he was not as confident as he looked when, during the third set, he turned on one of the noisy spectators and shouted "shut up".

He saw a 3—1 lead disappear but still kept amazingly cool. He was caught at four-all but took that set two games later after breaking service in the ninth game. He was briefly in trouble again in the fourth set when he trailed 2—4 but once again he broke service for 6—5 and won by 6—4, 4—6, 6—4, 7—5 after being on court for three hours.

McEnroe takes Connors's service apart

Philadelphia, Jan. 31.—John McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors 6—3, 6—3, 6—1 today to win the $300,000 dollars Professional indoor tennis championship. McEnroe, the world top-ranked player, maintained relentless pressure on Connors in winning the $60,000 first prize.

This was the 17th meeting between the two tennis giants and McEnroe's eighth triumph. He zeroed 13 aces and played most of the match from deep court, moving Connors around and continually forcing him to stretch to reach unerring placement shots.

McEnroe wasted little time demonstrating his superiority as he broke Connors's service in the second game of the opening set.

In the second set, McEnroe broke Connors in the fifth and seventh games, lost his service in the eighth, but came right back to take Connors's service.

McEnroe kept Connors on the defensive as he broke him in the second, fourth and seventh games of the third set.

Miss Louis wins

Joanne Louis of Devon won the 16-and-under indoor invitation tournament, sponsored by Saab at the Northgate Arena, Chester. After beating Siovhan Nicholson 7—6, 6—4, in the semi-final, Miss Louis defeated Sarah Sullivan, of Essex, 6—4, 7—5, in yesterday afternoon's final, Lewine Mair writes. Richard Wichello won his second 16-and-under Saab title by defeating Peter Moore of Surrey 6—4, 6—2.

Swimming

Miss Croft continues on record-breaking path

From Athole Still
Amersfoort, Jan 31

June Croft (Williams Wasps), aged 18, was again in record-breaking form during the final session of the international meeting at Amersfoort, Netherlands. The Wigan sprinter, who had already sped to gold and silver medals, respectively, in the 200 and 50 metres free-style events yesterday, including new British and Commonwealth records (2min 00.49sec) in the former, duplicated that feat in the 400 and 100 metres events today.

Paradoxically it was her second place in the 100 metres which satisfied her most in that she broke her British record by 0.4sec and equalled the Commonwealth record of Carole Klimpel, of Canada, with a time of 56.60sec. Miss Croft was again beaten, as she had been earlier in the 50 metres free-style, by the much-improved Dutch girl, Anne-Marie Verstappen, whose time (56.1sec) would have ranked her third in the world last year behind the two East Germans, Caren Metschuk (55.64) and Birgir Meineke (56.06).

She certainly demonstrated the accuracy of her assessment in the 400 metres, when she swam shoulder-to-shoulder with the Dutch distance specialist, Anneliès Maas for six lengths before demoralizing her with a final 100 metres in 61.1sec. This brought Miss Croft an easy victory and yet another British record of 4min 13.94sec, which improved the existing mark by 1.29sec.

Adrian Moorhouse (Leeds Central), recovered fully from his surprise defeat on Saturday in the 200 metres breaststroke, the event for which he won a bronze medal at last year's European championships, when he convincingly and most impressively defeated the young East German, Sigurd Hanke, over the 100 metres distance. In spite of emerging just behind Hanke after the dive (he really must improve his starts and turns), he was already a metre in the lead at 50 metres (29.59sec) and thereafter showed the soles of his feet to the field.

Stephen Poulter (Williams Wasps) had a just reward for a weekend of hard work and versatility when he won a bronze medal in the 400 metres individual medley in a time of 4min 34.82sec. This made a total of three golds, three silvers and two bronzes for England's 11-strong Yorkshire Bank squad.

Yesterday

MEN: 50 m free-style: 1, Stahl, 23.90. 100 m breaststroke: 1, Moorhouse, 1:04.18. 100 m backstroke: D Richter (EG), 57.20. 200 m free-style: 1, Shemetov, 1:55.30. 200 m butterfly: 1, Rivas, 2:05.18; 5, Poulter, 2:08.87. 400 m individual medley: 1, A Reicher (EG), 4:28.40; 3, Poulter, 4:34.82; 6, N Cochran (GB), 4:42.65.

WOMEN: 100 m free-style: 1, Verstappen, 56.10; 2, Croft, 56.60. 100 m backstroke: 1, L Gorchakova (USSR), 1:03.62. 100 m breaststroke: 1, Bogomilova, 1:13.13; 8, G Stanley (GB), 1:16.19. 200 m breaststroke: 1, J Alex (EG), 2:16.14; 6, Fibbens, 2:21.77. 400 m free-style: 1, Croft, 4:13.94.

Saturday

MEN: 100 metres free-style: 1, B Stahl (US), 51.70 sec. 100 m butterfly: 1, C Rivas (US), 54.48. 200 m breaststroke: 1, S Hanke (EG), 2:20.51; ...

Latest European s[now reports]

	Depth (cm) L	U	Piste				
Andermatt	190	320	Goo[d]				
Most runs open							
Arosa	220	260	Fai[r]				
Lifts closed on upper slopes							
Courmayeur	140	260	Goo[d]				
Excellent skiing							
Isola 2000	150	190	Goo[d]				
Excellent skiing							
Klosters	180	250	Goo[d]	Powder	Good	Snow	1
Few runs open, heavy snowfall							
La Plagne	180	340	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-1
Excellent skiing							
Murren	110	210	Fair	Crust	Fair	Rain	2
Not all runs open							
St Anton	270	500	Good	Heavy	Good	Snow	2
Avalanche danger, few runs open							
Tignes	240	300	Good	Varied	Good	Fog	-3
Wind closed some lifts							
Zermatt	80	160	Good	Varied	Fair	Fine	0
Skiing good above 2,000m.							

In the above reports, supplied by the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes.

For the record

Hockey

LONDON LEAGUE: Cambridge University 1, Teddington 4; Dulwich 3, Purley 0; Guildford 4, Cheam 1; Hampstead 1, Surbiton 0; London University 0, Blackheath 1; Oxford University 2, Old Kingstonians 1; Richmond 1, Hounslow 3; St Albans 8, Mid-Surrey 0; Slough 5, Spencer 0.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Southgate 2, RAF 0.

EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford 2, West Herts 1; Bluecharts 0, Bishop's Stortford 1; Cambridge City 3, Norfolk Wanderers 2; Chelmsford 1, Bedfordshire Eagles 0; Ipswich 3, Norwich Grasshoppers 1; Pelicans 0, Norwich Union 0; Westcliff 2, Broxbourne 1.

SOUTH LEAGUE: Hampshire/Surrey: Chichester 3, Metropolitan Police 5; Epsom 2, Bank of England 1; Hamble OB 2, Trojans 5; Havant 4, Camberley 1; Old Tauntonians 1, Fareham 0; Portsmouth and Southsea 0, Walton 3. Kent/Sussex: Canterbury 2, Lloyds Bank 1; Eastbourne 2, Old Williamsonians 2; East Grinstead 0, Sevenoaks 1; Folkestone Opt 1, Tunbridge Wells 1; Lewes 0, Gravesend 1; Marden Russets 1, Bognor 0; Worthing 3, Anchorians 0. Middlesex/Berks, Bucks and Oxon: Amersham 1, Courage 1; Banbury 0, Indian Gymkhana 0; Eastcote 4, City of Oxford 0; Hayes 2, Sunbury 1.

WOMEN: Territorial matches: East 3, Midlands 0; East B 2, South B 3.

Lacrosse

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: Lee 5, Hampstead 16; Hillcroft 5, Purley 17.

WOMEN: Southern League, first division: Purley 5, Barnet and Enfield 8; Putney 20, Hatch End 2; West London 4, Weybridge 7.

Bobsleigh

ST MORITZ: British championship: 1, M Lloyd and P Brugnani, 4min 57.11sec; 2, J Woodall and P Breedin 4:57.29; 3, M Pugh and A Cearns 4:59.56.

Squash rackets

KUALA LUMPUR: World junior championships, first round: M Bodimeade (England) beat Al Lau (Malaysia) 9—2, 9—5, 9—2; F Ellis (Scotland) beat M Mustapha (Malaysia) 9—2, 9—0, 9—1; J Hickox (England) beat G Murray (Canada) 9—0, 9—4, 9—3; P Hill (Singapore) beat M Green (England) 9—7, 9—4, 9—0; S Ruckerl (WG) beat B Tait (Scotland) 6—9, 9—7, 10—8, 9—7, 9—4; F Johnsson (Sweden) beat A Williams (Wales) 9—5, 9—0, 9—2; H Evans (Wales) beat B Thomas (WG) 9—2, 9—1, 9—0; H Leabourn (NZ) beat M MacLean (Scotland) 9—0, 4—9, 9—5, 9—5; K Hussain (Pakistan) beat J Morrison (Scotland) 9—1, 9—0, 9—1; J Phelan (Ireland) beat M Heaney (Canada) 9—5, 5—9, 10—8, 9—1; Ahmed Gul (Pakistan) beat A Davies (Wales) 9—6, 9—0, 9—1. Second round: Sohail Qaiser (Pakistan) beat Bodimeade 9—2, 8—10, 9—1, 9—0; Hickox beat R Wyatt (NZ) 9—1, 9—0, 9—0; Umar Hayat (Pakistan) beat P Kavanagh (Ireland) 9—3, 9—4, 9—1; F Johnsson (Sweden) beat I McKay (Ireland) 9—1, 9—2, 9—2; Ahmed Gul beat Phelan 9—6, 9—2, 9—3; C Willstrop (England) beat P Walsh (Australia) 9—1, 9—1, 9—3; M Crosbie (NZ) beat Evans 3—9, 2—9, 10—8, 9—5, 9—1.

Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Vancouver Canucks 4, Philadelphia Flyers 2; Washington Capitals 5, Chicago Black Hawks 2; Pittsburgh Penguins 2, Winnipeg Jets 1; Quebec Nordiques 2, Toronto Maple Leafs 2; Montreal Canadiens 5, Detroit Red Wings 3; Hartford Whalers 3, Boston Bruins 2; Los Angeles Kings 7, St Louis Blues 4; New York Islanders 1, Minnesota North Stars 2; Calgary Flames 3, Buffalo Sabres 2.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (Friday): New York Rangers 5, Colorado Rockies 2; Edmonton Oilers 3, Buffalo Sabres 1.

Motor racing

DAYTONA BEACH: 24-hour Pepsi Challenge: 1, R Stommelen, P Paul and J Paul Jnr (WG), Porsche Turbo 935, 719 laps, 2,760.96 miles, 114.794 mph.

Basketball

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Cantabrica Kingston 90, Sunderland 110; Lada Birchwood 92, Solent Stars 115; Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead 86, Crystal Palace 100; John Carr Doncaster 104, Talbot Guildford 86; TCB Brighton 90, Crystal Palace 106. Second division: Bradford Heatbreakers 87, Brunel Uxbridge 77; West Bromwich Kestrels 115, Camden 127; Travelodge Milton Keynes 77, Nottingham 64; Camden 100, Bolton Wanderers 77. Women: First division: Stockport Thorns 55, Colchester Tiger 58; Crystal Palace Tropics 85, Nottingham 62; London YMCA 40, Southampton 57; Sheffield 67, Colchester Tigers 85; Avon Coventry Northants 77, Stockport Thorns 54; Solent 80, Crystal Palace Topics 63.

MASTERS TOURNAMENT: Semi-finals: Sunderland 91, Fiat Birmingham 74; Ovaltine Hemel Hempstead 94, Solent Stars 73.

Athletics

AUCKLAND: Invitation meeting: mile: 1, S Scott (US) 3min 55.67sec; 2, J Walker (NZ) 3:55.77; 3, P O'Donoghue (NZ) 3:58.30; 5,000m: 1, D Moorcroft (England) 13:31.22.

LE MANS: 24-hour event: 1, Bousiquet (France), 262km 130 metres (163 miles 165 yards), world best.

Tennis

BELGRADE: King's Cup: European men's indoor team, second division: Ireland 2, Yugoslavia 1. Results (Irish names first): S Sorensen beat N Pickovic 6—1, 6—0; M Doyle lost to S Zivojinovic 6—3, 6—3; Sorensen and Doyle beat Zivojinovic and I Flego 6—2, 6—3.

Hockey

Midlands go West to East

East 3 Midlands 0

In the last of the 10 territorial matches this season on Saturday East's win brought them second place in the championship with three wins and one loss. The match was played on the high plateau at Monks Walk School, Welwyn Garden City, and for the first time East played as selected.

From the start they looked the winning team and their Suffolk players made the reality come true. Helen Bray scored the first and last goals and Claire Webb fed the cross pass for Celia Sinclair to flick in the middle one.

ENGLAND SQUAD: P Gibbon (Berkshire) (another goalkeeper is to be named later), V Dixon (Cambridgeshire), L Carr (Lancashire), M Allen (Worcestershire), K Dodd (Berkshire), K Lott (Leicestershire), E Holden (Northamptonshire), M Souter (captain, Lancashire), V Robinson (Lancashire, Central League), J Swinnerton (Staffordshire), J Juriansz (Kent), K Bray (Suffolk).

Yesterday

EAST COUNTY LEAGUE: Bedfordshire 1, Lincolnshire 3.

SURREY CUP: Fourth round: Walton 5, London University 1.

OXFORDSHIRE CUP: Second round: Banbury 1, Chiltern 0.

Survivors for next leg

By Sydney Friskin

Buckinghamshire, Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire survived the preliminary round of the County championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, yesterday and qualified for a place in the quarter-final round.

Cambridgeshire had to work hardest of all for their victory over Devon and in fact this match provided the day's best thrills. Cambridgeshire won after a double round of penalty strokes, the score standing at 1—1 at the end of full time and also extra time.

Andrew Harris gave Devon the lead in the first half, which was held until a couple of minutes before full time when Poyser saved the game for Cambridgeshire who will now be at home to Buckinghamshire.

After a number of seasons on the sidelines, Cambridgeshire are pleased to be in the running again and are hoping to go one better than their last effort in 1970 when they reached the semi-final.

Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire's guests on February 14, beat Worcestershire, the Midlands champions, 2—1 at Slough. Laly gave Buckinghamshire the lead a few minutes before half-time and Saini scored the second goal early in the second half. But the game was marred by incidents which led to two Buckinghamshire players being temporarily suspended, Bhaji Flora in the first half and Saini in the second.

Yorkshire qualified to meet Surrey in the quarter-final round with a 1—0 victory over the Royal Air Force at RAF Cranwell. After a blank first half, Yardley scored for Yorkshire seven minutes before the end in a move which was started by Hughes, but the RAF lost a great chance of saving the match three minutes before the end when Clinton pushed a penalty stroke just wide of a post.

Cheshire won the Northern title by beating Lancashire 3—0 at Wilmington Park, Bowdon, and will play Gloucestershire away in the quarter-final round on February 14. Dodds in the first half and Buchan (2) in the second scored for Cheshire.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round: RAF 0, Yorkshire 1; Buckinghamshire 2, Worcestershire 0; Cambridgeshire 1, Devon 1 (after extra time, Cambridgeshire won on penalty strokes). Northern championship: Cheshire 3, Lancashire 0 (Cheshire qualify for quarter-final round).

Cricket

Kanpur can pour like Manchester

From Richard Streeton
Kanpur, Jan 31

One hour's play was possible in the sixth Test match here today because of drizzling rain, the first the England players have seen since they left London on November 5. It brought a maddening hold-up for England who were aiming at quick runs to consolidate an encouraging start they made on Saturday. During the stoppage India provided the day's main item with the announcement that Gavaskar will be captain on the tour to England this summer.

There was of course, no other candidate provided Gavaskar was available and willing to take on the extra responsibility. He declined the captaincy when India came to England last in 1979 and Vengsarkar was appointed. Gavaskar was not convinced at the time that the job could be combined satisfactorily with his responsibilities as the team's main batsman. Now he has become more used to the twin roles even if at times in Australia and New Zealand in 1980-81 his own form gave his critics the chance to wonder if he should be given the extra burden.

Against England in the past three months Gavaskar's tactical thinking has improved visibly match by match in both the Tests and in the one-day series. He has the wholehearted support of his players and has instilled a belief in their own ability, two factors that have not always been present in Indian captains in the past.

Gavaskar has been fortunate in having a varied attack with which to juggle and has done so cleverly. He is a finicky captain, often moving fieldsmen after every ball, though sometimes this has been a time wasting gambit. He may occasionally infuriate English crowds both for this trait and with his own batting but there is no question that under his leadership India will be that much harder to beat.

Fletcher considers Gavaskar the "toughest" Indian captain he has seen. On paper he is India's most successful leader. Under him India have beaten West Indies, Australia and Pakistan at home in the past three years. Abroad, they have drawn with Australia and lost to New Zealand. It will be Gavaskar's fourth visit to England with an official Indian team. The rest of the party will be announced in Bombay on March 29.

Gavaskar himself thinks the 1971 side which Wadekar led was the strongest team India have had in recent years — especially in the spin bowling department — but believes India should give a good account of themselves with the bat and that their utility strength will make them hard to beat.

Like Fletcher Gavaskar believes that over rates are something for the legislators to deal with and that the umpires should be spared any responsibility in the matter. In this he will have everyone's support, perhaps, even if his suggested mandatory figure of 15 overs an hour being stipulated is lower than most people would feel was warranted.

Meanwhile this particular Test match is the third played in this northern industrial city since 1978-79 at this time of the year to be disrupted by wintry rain.

Despite the enduring place Cawnpore, as it used to be spelt, holds in English history books, it is short of cricket traditions. On neither day in this game so far has the 45,000 capacity ground been filled. Breakfast time reading is provided by *The Pioneer*, a daily published in nearby Lucknow. They attribute the lack of interest to the dull, indeterminate cricket played elsewhere earlier in the series, an interesting endorsement of what I wrote on Friday.

England scored 213 for three from 68 overs on Saturday which, despite a loss of 18 minutes for bad light at the end, was the highest first day score in this series. It was as dank and murky as Manchester can be in June as the teams practised before the start and began to drizzle as play should have started. A start was possible after an hour's wait and England progressed to 249 for four before it resumed raining in the final over before lunch. It proved to be the day's entire ration of cricket though there were sundry inspections between the drizzle and the final abandonment.

Doshi and Shastri, India's two left-arm slow bowlers, shared the attack until the new ball was taken. Both had defensive fields and runs mostly came with singles. When Kapil Dev bowled Botham struck him for one stylish and ferocious boundary past mid-off which made light of the wet outfield. India took the new ball at 247 in the 82nd over and Kapil Dev's third ball with it proved fatal for Gower. He played a rather casual defensive stroke without moving his feet and was leg-before.

Botham had some moments of luck on Saturday but disciplined his basic inclinations while reaching what was his fifth 50 in this series in consecutive matches. The pitch on Saturday yielded a little spin and the seam bowlers swung the ball under the clouds. But the ball is not coming on to the bat as the cricketers put it. As I write the water is forming on the tarpaulin covers. It is bitterly cold and Willis, Gooch, Lever and Taylor are amazing the few left in the ground by running round the outfield. It is commendable keenness but like England's batting to date one fears it is all going to be wasted effort.

ENGLAND: First innings

G A Gooch, b Doshi	58
C J Tavaré, b Doshi	24
K W R Fletcher, b Kapil Dev	14
D I Gower, lbw, b Kapil Dev	85
I T Botham, not out	53
M W Gatting, not out	0
Extras (b2, lb2, w5, n-b6)	15
Total (4 wkts)	249

G. R. Dilley, J. E. Emburey, R. W. Taylor, D. L. Underwood, R. G. D. Willis to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1—82, 2—89, 3—121, 4—248.
BOWLING (to date): Kapil Dev, 25—3—91—2, Madan Lal, 14—2—54—0, Doshi, 26—7—41—2, Doshi, 26—7—41—2, Shastri, 19—5—47—0.
INDIA: S M Gavaskar, P Roy, D P Vengsarkar, G Viswanath, Yashpal Sharma, A Malhotra, Kapil Dev, R J Shastri, S M H Kirmani, Madan Lal, D R Doshi.
UMPIRES: M V Gothoskar and D Dotiwalla.

Thomson fires back as his comrades fall

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Adelaide, Jan 31

Adversity has brought the best out of Australia in the third Test match here today, specially out of Thomson. Down to eight fit men and only three bowlers, they took six West Indian wickets for 204 runs after being bowled out themselves for 238. Fired by his own and the crowd's enthusiasm and by Australia's plight, Thomson bowled at a fine speed and with great spirit.

Hughes has a broken toe, Chappell a badly bruised left hand and Lillee a strained groin. The first two were unable to field and will bat in Australia's second innings only with difficulty. After bowling four inaccurate overs this morning Lillee limped off, not to reappear. Although it was a yorker from Holding which hit Hughes on the foot, West Indies, for most of Australia's innings, bowled shamelessly short.

The pitch, hard and bouncy, encouraged them to do so and the umpires, as umpires do the world over, acted as though there was nothing in the laws to stop it. Marsh was another victim of a short ball, hit on the cheek yesterday evening as he tried to hook Croft. Having retired soon afterwards with double vision, Marsh was back today captaining the side in Chappell's absence and in his own eightieth Test match, a new Australian record.

In making a painful 61 Chappell showed much courage. Border, too, had to be dug out, as he usually is. Wood and Hughes were out to shots which suggested that for the moment they have had just about enough of the short fast bowling. Lillee (when he should have had his head down) went to the sort of one-day stroke he has been playing for the last three weeks. Richards, too, slashed at everything as though no one had told him he was back playing Test cricket again.

And tonight after many fluctuations it is, albeit only on paper, level pegging. Australia's final total represented a substantial recovery from 18 for four (they were put in and at their first three batsmen Laird and Dyson were caught at the wicket down the leg side). When West Indies were 37 for one at lunch today, with three Australian substitutes on the field and Lillee already out of action, there seemed again to be little future for Australia. However, Richards (caught at short leg off bat and pad), Haynes and Bacchus were out before the score reached 100, and this evening Thomson came storming back after Lloyd and Gomes had added 102 for the fifth wicket.

Yardley and Pascoe played their part, Yardley removing the champion and Pascoe taking a wicket, but Thomson was the hero at a time when Australia needed one. They have been two gorgeous days of sunshine and breeze, watched by good crowds (30,127 yesterday, 27,511 today). Whatever Kerry Packer's spokesman, Lynton Taylor, would have us think, Test cricket is not dead yet.

AUSTRALIA: First innings

B M Laird, c Dujon, b Roberts	2
G M Wood, c Garner, b Roberts	5
J Dyson, c Dujon, b Holding	1
K J Hughes, c Greenidge, b Holding	5
*G S Chappell, c Garner, b Holding	61
A R Border, c Dujon, b Roberts	78
†R W Marsh, c Dujon, b Holding	39
B Yardley, b Croft	8
D K Lillee, b Roberts	2
J R Thomson, not out	18
L S Pascoe, b Holding	10
Extras (lb1, lb2, w1, n-b5)	9
Total	238

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-8, 3-8, 4-17, 5-122, 6-193, 7-206, 8-209, 9-210, 10-238.
BOWLING: Holding, 25-5-72-5; Roberts, 19-7-43-4; Croft, 23-4-60-1; Garner, 17-4-44-0; Gomes, 7-3-10-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings

C G Greenidge, c Border, b Thomson	8
D Haynes, c Marsh, b Thomson	26
I V A Richards, c Laird, b Yardley	42
H A Gomes, not out	53
S F Bacchus, c Laird, b Pascoe	0
*C H Lloyd, c Marsh, b Thomson	53
†P J Dujon, not out	0
Extras	4
Total (6 wkts)	204

A M E Roberts, M A Holding, J Garner, C E H Croft to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-72, 3-85, 4-[illegible].
BOWLING: Lillee, [illegible]; Thomson, [illegible]; Pascoe, 18-[illegible]; Yardley, 18-2-[illegible].

Tests to take priority over one-day game

From John Woodcock
Adelaide, Jan 31

The best news to come out of Australia for some time is that the programme of one-day matches is to be kept seperate from the Test series when England are here next winter. Priority is to be given to the proper game. With five Test matches being played between late November and the second week in January. These will be followed for the last four weeks of the tour by the razamatazz.

This, at any rate, is the gist of the draft itinerary now on is way to Lord's for consideration by the Test and County Cricket Board. The Australians, bearing in mind their obligations to commercial television, have proposed a triangular tournament of 15 one-day matches. With New Zealand as the third side, plus a best-of-five final, England would prefer fewer one-day games. Although if they get their way on that they could find themselves with a sixth Test match to play.

What has happened this winter is that the heavy one-day programme, extravagantly promoted and spread over many weeks, has tended to swamp the other matches. If that were allowed to continue it could finish off Test and Sheffield Shield cricket. People were brought to their senses when the managing director of PBL Ltd, who market the game on behalf of the Australian Cricket Board, predicted, not many days ago, that this was actually happening.

The players have also had difficulty, as England did when they were here last, changing overnight from the demands of the one-day game to those of three, four of five day cricket. They consider it unreasonable to be asked to do so. The new schedule, or something like it, would also allow Australia's Test team to appear more often for their State sides. When the present season ends most of them will have played only two out of a possible nine Shield matches.

The question of rest days in Test matches and clothes for the one-day games have also to be settled. The main opposition to rest days comes from Channel Nine. The players, who should matter more, favour them. As a compromise, there could be rest days when Tests fall close together, but not otherwise. The danger of wearing coloured clothing for all one-day cricket (again to gratify Channel Nine) is the division it might cause by creating two distinct camps of supporters — the whites and the colours. But of the points at issue this is not the most important.

England head for final

Nelson, New Zealand. — England edged a step closer to the final of the women's world cup cricket competition with the easiest of wins over India here today. India batted first and lasted only 37 of the 60 overs available, making just 61 runs. Janet Tedstone was the most successful bowler, picking up four wickets.

England then went through to 62 without losing a wicket to retain second place in the competition behind Australia. The Australians are already assured of a place in the final on February 7.

The only team who can still deny England a final berth, New Zealand, stayed in contention with an 84-run win over the International XI in Dunedin today. The New Zealanders made 199 for seven with Debbie Hockley top scorer on 79. The International XI struggled through to 115 for seven in its 60 overs.

Australia remain undefeated after an easy win over the International XI.

INDIA

G Bannerjee, c Bakewell, b Tedstone	10
F Khaleel, c Bakewell, b Tedstone	6
V Bhagat, lbw, b Tedstone	0
A Gurjar, c and b C. Hodges	13
S Kulkarni run out	4
R Dholakia, b Tedstone	0
S Rangaswamy, c S Hodges, b C. Hodges	1
N Barve, c Bakewell, b C. Hodges	0
D Edulji, b Starling	12
L Bhattacharya, c S Hodges, b Hullah	0
S Chakraborty not out	14
Extras	2
Total	62

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-13, 3-18, 4-32, 5-33, 6-33, 7-40, 8-40, 9-41, 10-62.
BOWLING: Tedstone, 12-6-17-4; Starling, 7-2-8-1; Bakewell, 5-2-11-0; C. Hodges, 7-3-9-3; Hullah, 6-3-15-1.

ENGLAND

J Brittin not out	34
S Goatman not out	27
Extras	2
Total (no wkt)	63

BOWLING: Rangaswamy, 6-2-12-0; Edulji, 5-1-8-0; Bhattachrya, 2-0-7-0; Chakraborty, 5-1-7-0; Kulkarni, 2-0-11-0; Banerjee, 3-0-6-0.

	P	W	T	L	Pts
Australia	9	9	0	0	36
England	10	6	1	3	26
New Zealand	10	5	1	4	22
India	9	3	0	6	12
International XI	10	0	0	10	0

Reuter and Agence France-Presse

Umpires criticized again

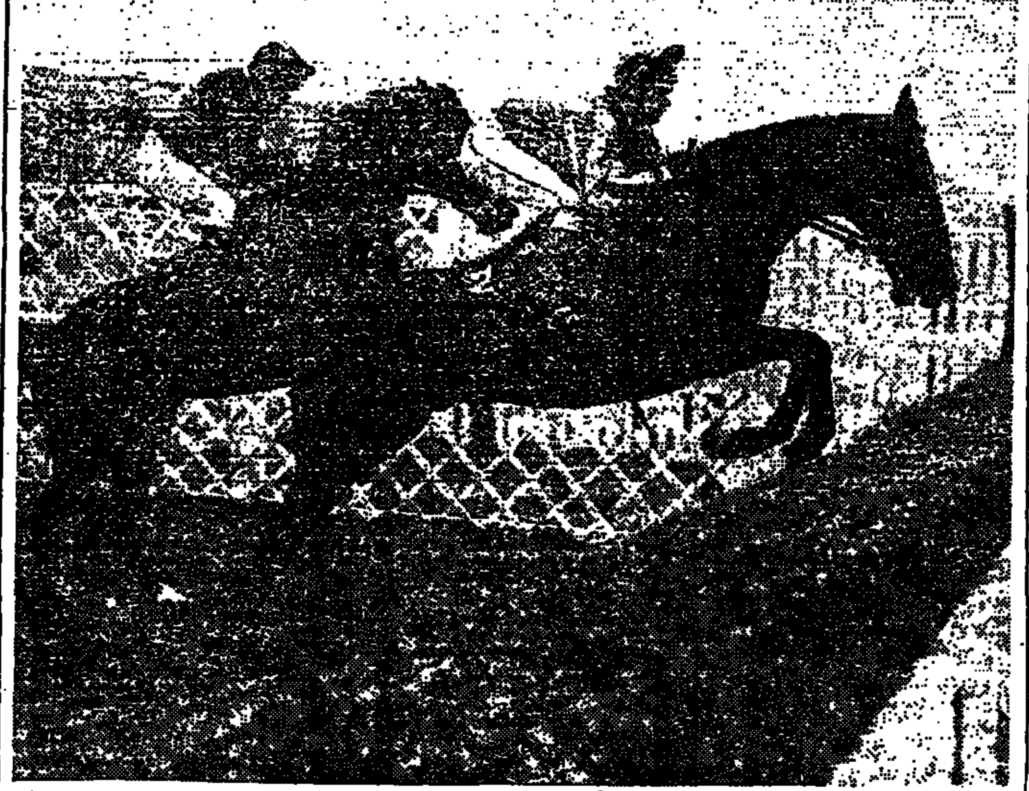
Karachi, Jan 31.—Mr Ejaz Butt, manager of the Pakistan Cricket Team, who have just completed a three-month tour in Australia, was critical of the umpiring in the three-Test series, when he returned home.

In an interview with reporters here Mr Butt said the umpiring was "poor" and that he lodged a protest against two umpires after the first match. "But the same set of umpires was posted in the second Test, too," he said.

BRISBANE: Sheffield Shield: Queensland 183 (Ritchie 52, Wessels 37) and 149 for three (Wessels 105); New South Wales 448 for 6 declared (Toohey 137, Davis 113, Maguire four for 86).

PERTH: Sheffield Shield: Western Australia 307 (Serjeant 80, Hogan 70; Callen 4 for 88) and 98 for one (Shipperd 44 not out). Victoria 316 (Green 82, Yallop 55).

Racing



Leaping statues: Wayward Lad leads Lesley Ann on the first circuit

Broadsword cuts a dash at last

By Michael Seely

Months of waiting and anxiety for David Nicholson were swept gloriously aside on Saturday as Broadsword stormed triumphantly up the hill at Cheltenham to beat Heighlin and Pollardstown in the Tote Treble Hurdle. Neither Nicholson nor Peter Scudamore have ever lost faith in Lord Northampton's five-year-old. And for the first time this season Broadsword displayed those qualities of speed, stamina and fluent jumping that make him such an admirable racehorse. "He looked a good horse", that voice of authority, Fulke Walwyn, said.

Although the candidates for the Champion Hurdle seem to be beating each other with monotonous regularity, Broadsword is finding his form at the right time. And still being an entire horse, he is bound to have derived considerable benefit from Saturday's race. Either Nottingham's City Trial Hurdle or the Kingwell Pattern Hurdle at Wincanton will be Broadsword's last race before the Festival. Ladbrokes are offering 6-1 against him for the championship. It is a bit early to advocate support at this price as Sea Pigeon and others may be waiting in the wings, but Broadsword has set the standard.

What on earth can one make of Heighlin now? There he was 150 yards from the last hurdle full of running and with Steve Jobar sitting with a double handful. Yet before they jumped the flight both Broadsword and Pollardstown had left him for dead. And when the race was virtually over, Heighlin stayed on strongly to take second place close home. On the face of it, it was not an encouraging performance; but he possesses so much ability that it is impossible to leave him out of the reckoning for either the Schweppes Gold Trophy or the Champion Hurdle.

The fact that the principals in Saturday's Sweeps Hurdle are being sent to Newbury for the Schweppes has caused a reshuffle in the market. Ekbalco and Gaye Chance are the joint favourites at 7-1 with Ladbrokes. They then go 8-1 For Auction and 10-1 Pearlstone.

My recomendation on the publication of the weights was to take the 16-1 against Gaye Chance. At that time no dark horse appeared to be lurking at the foot of the handicap with the possible exeption of Donegal Prince. However, the victory of Apple Wine at Catterick and his second to Comerce at Doncaster suggest that Mick Easterby's five-year-old could be a formidable contender. Significantly John O'Neill has expressed an interest in riding the horse. Ladbrokes offer 16-1 which looks worth taking.

The other highlight at Cheltenham was the victory of Lesley Ann over Tacroy and Wayward Lad in the Tote Double Steeplechase. Wayward Lad was cantering three fences from home but was a spent force before jumping the next. He was beaten so far in the slowly run race, that it is impossible to say that lack of stamina alone caused his defeat.

However, nothing can detract from the merit of Lesley Ann's win. David Elsworth's mare is in her element at Cheltenham and is sure to run well in the Gold Cup for which Night Nurse is now favourite. Lesley Ann may well go for the Compton Steeplechase at Newbury on Schweppes Day where she would have to take on Diamond Edge.

Despite his disappointment with Waywrd Lad, Dickinson still won the feature races at the two other courses — the William Hill Yorkshire Steeplechase at Doncaster with Bregawn and the West of Scotland Pattern Steeplechase with Seamus O'Flynn. However, the punters and all concerned had to wait neary two and half hours before it was announced that the steward's has overruled an objection by Tony Charlton, the rider of Megan's Boy who finished second to Bregawn on the grounds that John Francome had taken the wrong course approaching the seventh fence from home.

Confusion must have reigned in betting shops all over the country, as apart from the single bets on Bregawn, the winner was also coupled in multiple wagers with other horses. "Justice was done," said a tousled Francome as he was at long allowed to go and get changed. It was said aferwards that the authorities were satisfied that Bregawn had knocked the post in question over with his near side and that therefore he had not left the cours.

STATE OF GOING (official) Leicester: Hurdles, soft, Chase, good to soft. Plumpton: soft. Tomorrow: Sedgefield: good.

Schweppes is next for Sweeps winner

From Our Irish Correspondent
Dublin, Jan 31

Daring Run, the ante-post favourite for the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle, drifted ominously in the pre-race betting on the Sweeps Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday, and his performance was, regrettably, justified for those who had knocked him out as he finished only 15th behind the 9-1 winner, For Auction.

The English challenger, Ekbalco, who was receiving 2lb from Daring Run, ran a good deal better to finish sixth. As usual, Ekbalco was one of the backmarkers for the greater part of the event, and when David Goulding tried to make his challenge he found his path blocked by tiring rivals, and had to be switched to the outside. By that time the race had taken its final shape.

For most of the event, the running was dictated by two of the outsiders, Honey Come Back and Saspring. But at the second last, the favourite, Pearlstone, suddenly broke clear of the pack and dashed into a good lead approaching the final flight.

It proved to be a premature move by Pearlstone, who weakened quickly on the flat and offered little resistance to For Auction, who quickly established a winning advantage.

The race was not over, though as Royal Fair producing a splendid turn of speed, enabling him to pass half a dozen horses in the closing stages. He was catching For Auction stride by stride, but the winning post came just too soon for him, and he was still threequarters of a length behind at the finish.

Michael Cunningham, who won the Schweppes Gold Trophy with Irish Fashion in 1976, plans to run For Auction in the same race at Newbury on February 13, when he escapes a penalty.

By far the biggest disappointment on Saturday, though, was the eclipse of Istimewa, having his first run over jumps in the Sachs Hotel Hurdle. Istimewa had won five consecutive Flat races, and his trainer, Edward O'Grady, hoped that he would turn out to be a successor to his ill-fated Golden Cygnet.

Sweeps Hurdle: 1 For Auction (9-1); 2 Royal Fair (16-1); 3 Pearlstone (5-1 fav). NR Princely Ray.

❑ British challengers made an encouraging start on the first day of the 1982 French Flat season at Cagnes-sur-Mer yesterday. Torsion Prince won the £3,205 Prix des Camelias and Realm's Reason finished second in the £3,205 Prix Firouzan. Torsion Prince, ridden by Pat Eddery for Neville Callaghan, was always well placed throughout the Camelias, but Wilie Hastings Bass's Realm's Reason, ridden by Paddy Young, was an unlucky loser of the Firouzan.

Leicester programme

1.30 SOMERBY HURDLE (Div. 1: 4-y-o novices: £690: 2m) (16 runners)

1 0001 COVENT GARDEN (D) (G Parton) W Clay 11-7 ... N Clay
3 00 ALFIE DICKINS (Dickins Ltd.) R Hollinshead 11-0 ... C Astbury
6 0 ANDREA'S PET (F Yardley) F Yardley 11-0 ... C Smith
7 0 ANGEVIN (Mrs P Mills) D Ringer 11-0 ... S McNeill
12 002 FIERY GLEN (T Hodgkins) B Cambidge 11-0 ... Mr J Cambidge
14 0 GRINDERS (Needhams Butchers) E Carter 11-0 ... P Charlton
15 LATEST LOVE (A Duffield) A Jarvis 11-0 ... J Burke
16 LEFT BANK (G Beccle) D Morley 11-0 ... P Scudamore
17 000 LE GRAN BRUM (D Elton) P Cundell 11-0 ... H Davies
19 OLD ROWLEY (Miss D Squires) Mrs J Pitman 11-0 ... C Brown
20 0240 PONTOON (N Hall) N Hall 11-0 ... J A Harris 4
22 ROYAL BOUNTY (Mrs P Sheen) N Henderson 11-0 ... S Smith Eccles
24 0 SIBERICA (Mrs D Needham) P Felgate 11-0 ... K Sims 7
27 STAR OF SALFORD (Salford Van Hire) D Nicholson 11-0 ... N Hiskett 7
30 200 THE THATCHER (H Joel) R Turnell 11-0 ... A Turnell
32 00 WINSOR BOND (Steel Plate & Sections) P Cundell 11-0 ... A Brown

9-4 The Thatcher, 11-4 Covent Garden, 9-2 Star of Salford, 7 Latest Love, 10 Winsor Bond, 12 Angevin, 14 Royal Bounty, 20 others.

2.0 GOLDEN MILLER PATTERN HURDLE (£3,178: 2m) (5)

1 114112 JIMBROOK (DB) (Mrs M Nowell) M H Easterby 5-11-13 ... Mr T Easterby
4 21120 DASMAN (D) (Sheik Fahad) F Winter 7-11-7 ... J Francome
7 111 GOLDSPUN (D) (Ld Vestey) D Nicholson 4-11-3 ... P Scudamore
9 011 DR STEVE (T Hayward) Mrs N Smith 4-10-7 ... S Shilston
12 034 VOICE OF PROGRESS (D Horswell) P Bailey 4-10-7 ... H Davies

5-4 Goldspun, 2 Dasman, 5 Dr Steve, 7 Jimbrook, 16 Voice of Progress.

2.30 TRIAL CHASE HANDICAP (£3,340: 3m) (10)

3 /01111- GRITTAR (CD) (F Gilman) F Gilman 9-11-10 ... Mr C Saunders
5 12p/241 ROLLER-COASTER (D) (Mrs M Lewis) F Winter 9-11-8 (8 ex) ... J Francome
6 01pp-4f NARVIK (D) (Lady Cadogan) N Crump 9-11-7 ... C Hawkins
7 213-331 SEA CAPTAIN (D) (G Reeve) R Head 8-11-7 (8 ex) ... H Davies
8 40-111p PILLAGER (D) (Mrs E Boucher) J Gifford 7-11-0 ... R Rowe
9 03400-0 KARWELL ABBEY (D) (Sir J Thomson) R Armytage 11-11-0 ... A Webber
10 01-3213 BEECHEY BANK (H Joel) R Turnell 8-10-6 ... Steve Knight
11 0413-03 MOOR CLOSE (G Chatterton) M H Easterby 8-10-4 ... J J O'Neill
12 0p1200 CHINA COTTAGE (CDB) (B Pepplatt) P Bailey 9-10-1 ... S Smith Eccles
13 1/00-03 JACKO (C,D) (R R Alden & Son) D Nicholson 10-10-1 ... P Scudamore

3 Pillager, 4 Roller-Coaster, 9-2 Grittar, 5 Sea Captain, 6 Beechey Bank, 8 Jacko, 12 Moor Close, 20 others.

3.0 UPPINGHAM CHASE (£1,245: 2m) (8)

1 p-230pp AVONCORE (C Cleary) F Yardley 10-12-1 ... C Smith
2 030102 MAJOR KNIGHT (CDB) (Ld Pembroke) R Head 8-12-1 ... J Francome
5 f12p-p3 FIXED PRICE (D) (Mrs B Kearney) Mrs M Rimell 8-11-5 ... Mr A Sharpe 7
6 4-01032 QUEEN OF THE BOGS (D) (C Henty) P Bailey 9-11-5 ... A Webber
7 f2-0310 ROSATPURA (D) (Mrs T Pick) D Morley 6-11-5 ... P Scudamore
8 0-23213 ROYAL FRIEND (B FitzGerald) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-5 ... B de Haan
9 00-041f STILL HOPED (D) (Sir H Calley) R Turnell 6-11-5 ... A Holder 7
11 10- UNCLE ALF (D Daly) M Dickinson 9-11-0 ... R Earnshaw

11-4 Royal Friend, 7-2 Major Knight, 9-2 Uncle Alf, 6 Fixed Price, 7 Queen of the Bogs, 8 Still Hope, 14 Rosatpura, 33 Avoncore.

3.30 LEICESTERSHIRE HUNTERS' CHASE (Maidens: £566: 3m) (14)

2 p0p/p-0 BILBO (F Smith) F S Smith 12-12-7 ... Mr G Woodruff 7
3 0/p40p- BOBBY'S FOX (P Mann) P Mann 9-12-7 ... Mr P Mann 7
5 0000/00 DEVMOSS (J Barr) Mrs J Barr 7-12-7 ... Miss S Williamson 7
6 DU BELLAY (C Hitchings) C Hitchings 11-12-7 ... Miss K Bryan 7
7 0p0f23- FORDINGTON VALLEY (J Young) J Young 8-12-7 ... Mr P T Brookshaw
8 0/00- GLENBOWER WOOD (J M Turner) J M Turner 8-12-7 ... Mr D Turner
10 0pb0/p- HAL'S GOLD (P Mann) P Mann 10-12-7 ... Mr M Mann 7
11 p- KAYLAD (G King) G King 7-12-7 ... Mr D Cantillon 7
13 030/pu- LIGHT SPRITE (R Barr) R Barr 12-12-7 ... Mr T D Smith 7
14 000- MASTER NIBBLE (C Holmes) C Holmes 7-12-7 ... Mr C Holmes 7
15 00f4/ MORE CULTURE (A Mason) A Mason 9-12-7 ... Mr A Mason 7
17 00- PRATTLE (G Burton) G Burton 10-12-7 ... Mr C Saunders
18 fp0340- TUNNEL MASTER (D Pitcher) D Pitcher 9-12-7 ... Mr D Pitcher 7
19 33uo- WELLANDS COPSE (C Nash) C Nash 9-12-7 ... Mr M Wilkinson 7

5-2 Fordington Valley, 3 Kaylad, 9-2 More Culture, 5 Tunnel Master, 7 Du Bellay, 12 Light Sprite, 14 Wellands Copse, 16 Devmoss, 25 others.

4.0 SOMERBY HURDLE (Div. II: Novices: £690: 2m) (18)

1 01300 BESIEGED (B) (A Blane) P Cundell 11-7 ... H Davies
3 331 ON A CLOUD (CD) (Ld Northampton) D Nicholson 11-7 ... P Scudamore
5 100 ALDINGTON BOY (C Wheatley) Mrs J Reavey 11-0 ... M O'Halloran
6 0 AVONDALE PRINCESS (Mrs B Taylor) M McCourt 11-0 ... G McCourt
7 0p BRAVE GEM (Arkle Office Supplies) M Chapman 11-0 ... P Dever 7
8 00 BROKEN LACE (G Lugg) Mrs N Kennedy 11-0 ... S Shilston
9 CHINA RUN (F Howles) F Yardley 11-0 ... C Smith
11 0 DEWI SAINT (Miss P Adams) B Palling 11-0 ... C Candy
12 04 FLIGHTY FRIEND (R Botterill) R Woodhouse 11-0 ... C Grant
13 30f00 HARVESTER GLORY (E Aldridge) H Westbrook 11-0 ... S Smith Eccles
14 00 HIS MASTER'S VOICE (M Popham) P Bailey 11-0 ... S Morshead
19 0p0 MUSICAL BRIDGE (I Goldstein) M Chapman 11-0 ... S J O'Neill
21 f000 PRETTY TOUGH (Mrs T Winterton) W Clay 11-0 ... N Clay
22 RAISE A HAND (T Wallard) P Makin 11-0 ... DOUBTFUL
24 220000 SILVER LEO (B Wade) J Harris 11-0 ... J A Harris 4
26 VAL CLIMBER (I.C.S. Southern) A Jarvis 11-0 ... J Burke
27 0 WAR PARLEY (P Mann) P Mann 11-0 ... Mr M Mann 7
28 3 WEAVERS POINT (B Arnold) Mrs J Pitman 11-0 ... P Tuck

10-11 On a Cloud, 7-2 Besieged, 5 Weavers Point, 8 Flighty Friend, 12 Val Climber, 18 Silver Leo, China Run, 25 others.

Leicester selections

By Michael Seely
1.30 Covent Garden. 2.0 Goldspun. 2.30 Roller-Coaster. 3.0 Uncle Alf. 3.30 Master Nibble. 4.0 On A Cloud.

Athletics

Jones is unable to contain Sidorov's finish

Tokyo, Jan 31 — Vadim Sidorov of the Soviet Union, pulled away from Hugh Jones, of Britain, in the last 800 metres to win the Tokyo Marathon in 2 hr 10 min 33 sec today. The 22-year-old student, who bettered the time of 2:11:00 set by Rodolfo Gomez of Mexico, last year, took over the lead with Jones at the 35 kilometre (21 miles) mark.

Jones, aged 26, winner of the Oslo marathon last year, was unable to match Sidorov's finishing burst before entering the stadium and finished second in 2:10:41. Stefano Brunetti, of Italy, came in third in 2:11:22, followed by Japan's Takao Nakamura in 2:12:11, Jouni Kortelainen, of Finland, in 2:12:15, and Sven Kristensen, of Denmark, in 2:12:33.

Tanzania's Agapius Masong set a fast pace until the 32 kilometre mark. Sidorov, Jones, Rogers and 15 others made up a group chasing the Tanzanian, who at one point led them by more than 500 metres. Jones, the pre-race favourite, suffered cramp in his right leg two kilometres from the finish. Then Jones and Sidorov spurted to the front and ran side-by-side for some time.

A total of 76 runners, including 30 foreign competitors from 17 countries, started the race in sunny but chilly weather.

LEADING PLACINGS: 1, V Sidorov (USSR), 2 hr 10 min 33 sec; 2, H Jones (GB), 2:10:41; 3, S Brunelli (Italy), 2:11:22; 4, Takao Nakamura (Japan), 2:12:11; 5, J Kortelainen (Finland), 2:12:15; 6, S Krestensen (Denmark), 2:12:33; 7, F Szekers (Hungary), 2:12:35; 8, Hideki Kita (Japan), 2:13:24; 9, D Nedi (Ethiopia), 2:13:25; 10, O Dehl (Norway), 2:14:00. Other British placings: 19, N. Wilson, 2:16:14.

Nehemiah record

Dallas, Jan 31. — Renaldo Nehemiah set a world indoor best time for the 60 yards hurdles and Jeanette Bolden established a new mark in the women's 60 yards dash at an invitation athletics meeting here last night.

Mrs Elder bounces back like a bagatelle ball

By Norman Fox
Athletics Correspondent

Athletics may be moving towards a new era of commercial awareness, but for most athletes the sport can be as frustrating as ever. Almost every medal winner has a story of adversity, and from Verona Elder, who on Saturday won her eighth national WAAA indoor 400 metres title at Cosford, there was a catalogue of reasons why she might have ignored the occasion altogether.

At 27, Mrs Elder has little to prove. She is by miles Britain's most successful athlete on indoor tracks and the miles have taken a toll. Constant leaning into the bends on outdoor tracks rather than on the less damaging, banked indoor ones, have caused a back muscle problem which may restrict her season. Although not promising to compete for a fourth European indoor medal in Milan next March, she is determined to compete four more times for Britain and beat the record of 67 held by Geoff Capes.

She had decided not to include Milan in her plans, but Saturday's Philips sponsored meeting overcame the pain and frustration. However, she badly needs better competition than is available at Havering in Essex where the club has lost its drive. After having been told not to help clear her local track of snow because the piles would take longer to thaw, it was hardly surprising that she considered rejoining Wolverhampton to use Cosford. Fortunately, Haringey, with their indoor facilities, have come to the rescue of several potential champions in this hard winter.

None of this frustration was evident in Mrs Elder's impressive victory which swept away the frail challenge of Linsey Macdonald, who was third behind Linda Forsyth, who had greater experience on the track. Mrs Elder uses the track superbly. She whirls round the bends like a bagatelle ball and she has never been quicker at such an early stage in the season. Her time of 52.77sec was a championship best.

The severe weather has a least allowed Graham Williamson, aged 21, to spend more time in a gymnasium concentrating on flexibility. He has much of the explosive quality of Sebastian Coe and is following a similar training pattern. The effect on his running on Saturday was obvious. He was unchallenged in the 1,500 metres, winning comfortably and smoothly in 3min 40.7sec, an all-comers best performance.

Ruth Patten, who was kept out of competition for months because of an Achilles tendon injury, took her second title in a week. The previous weekend she won the Cosford Games 200 metres and on Saturday she took the WAAA title over the same distance, improving the United Kingdom mark to 24.07sec.

One of Britain's most promising middle-distance and steeplechase runners, Paul Davies-Hale, won the 10,000 metres international cross-country race at Cumbernauld on Saturday. He beat John Theophilus by five seconds in 31min 23sec. England won the team race.

WINNERS AT COSFORD: Men: 60 meters hurdles: M. Holtom, 7.8 secs; 60 m: H. King, 6.75; 800 m: C. McGeorge, 1: 50.4; 400 m: P. Dunn, 48.11; 2000 m steeplechase: P. Barrall, 5: 33.2; 200 m: L. Christie, 21.75; 3000 m: K. Newton, 7: 52.5; 1500 m: G. Williamson, 3: 40.7 (UK all-comers record); pole vault: J. Gutteridge, 5.00 metres (16ft 5ins); shot: M. Winch, 18.82m (61ft 9ins); high jump: A. Kruger, 2.12 m (6ft 11¼ins); triple jump: A. Moore, 16.48 m (54ft). Women: 60 m hurdles: Y. Wray, 8.33 secs; 60 m: W. Hoyte, 7.30; 800 m: J. Asgill, 2: 9.8; 400 m: V. Elder, 52.77 (championship best); 200 m: R. Patten, 24.07 (UK all-comers record); 1500 m: J. Marlow, 4: 20.8; long jump: B. Kinch, 6.11 m (20ft ½in); shot: J. Oakes, 16.50 m (54ft 1¾ins)

Cycling for Barcelona

Barcelona, Jan 31. — Doubts about Barcelona as the venue for the 1984 World Cycling Championships were dispelled last night when the town council agreed to build a cycling stadium to Olympic standards.

Rackets

Dragoon Guards captain at the double

By Roy McKelvie

Captain Mark Nicholls (4/7 DG) proved the outstanding player in the Army rackets and real tennis championships and Winchester won the Henry Leaf Cup for real tennis for the ninth successive year at Queen's Club over the weekend. With Alan Lovell, the amateur champion, Howard Angus, former world champion, and Peter Seabrook, there are few reasons why Winchester should not go on winning for a good many years to come.

Nicholls retained his Army rackets singles title beating David Reed-Felstead, a former holder, by 15—6, 15—6, 15—8. There was never much doubt about the result, Nicholls setting the pace and being the dominant striker. But the quality of the rallies from two natural players was pleasing to watch.

The regimental doubles final was a much closer affair, with Nicholls and Charles Wright, of the 4/7 DG, just pipping Reed-Felstead and David Hardy of the Blues and Royals, by 10—15, 15—11, 15—11, 15—4, 11—15, 10—15, 15—2.

Eton's chance of beating Winchester in the Henry Leaf Cup final were never great, but it faded rapidly when, in the opening rubber, Jonathan Walsh lost to Seabrook by 6—4, 5—6, 1—6. Walsh recovered from 2—5 to 5—5 in the second set, and then "blew it" with three unforced errors. Lovell clinched the tie beating William Boonè by 6—0, 6—1, 6—7.

RACKETS: Final: Capt M W Nicholls (4/7 DG) beat Major D M Reed-Felstead (RHG/D) 15—6, 15—6, 15—8. Regimental Doubles Final: 4/7 DG (Nicholls and Col C Wright) beat RHG/D (Reed-Felstead and Maj D T Hardy) 10—15, 15—11, 15—11, 15—4, 11—15, 10—15, 15—2. Combined Services, past and present, doubles final: G W T Atkins and C T M Pugh beat J H S Akerman and G A J De Lotbiniere 15—8, 15—1, 15—11, 15—12.

Henry LEAF CUP: Semi-final round: Winchester beat Rugby 2—0. Eton beat Haileybury 2—1. Final round: Winchester beat Eton 2—1. P G Seabrook beat J G M Walsh 4—6, 6—5, 6—1; A C Lovell beat W R Boone 6—0, 6—1, 6—2; H R Angus lost J J Reiss 4—6, 6—5, 4—6.

Plumpton programme

1.45 SHEEKEYS CHASE (novices: £1,113: 2m) (11 runners)

1 204-f21 FURRY ROCK (D) (R McAlpine) J Edwards 8-11-10 ... P Blacker
2 000314 HENLOW GAMBLE (Anthony Gervis Ltd) R Juckes 7-11-10 ... P Carvill 4
5 0-00f0p GLENJADE (N Wheeler) N Wheeler 7-11-3 ... Mr H Wheeler 7
7 3p/f0 HARPALYCE (M Greenway) Miss A Sinclair 7-11-3 ... I Akehurst 7
8 p0000f ISLE OF GRAIN (R Dance) R Head 8-11-3 ... R Goldstein
10 f00p-4 PARASPRING (Mrs H McNab) R Hodges 7-11-3 ... S G Knight
11 p-p00pf PELHAM DREAM (H Dean) Mrs P Bain 6-11-3 ... R Kington
13 3/000-0 RIGHTEOUS FURY (F Gray) F Gray 8-11-3 ... R Rowell
15 0pu03-f STATIST (B) (Mrs S Mutton) T Hallett 7-11-3 ... B Wright 4
16 0p STUDLAND (R Callow) R Hodges 9-11-3 ... Mr R Callow
17 0000p-0 SWIFT KING (D Greig) D Greig 7-11-3 ... P Barton

7-4 Furry Rock, 5-2 Henlow Gamble, 5 Statist, 6 Swift King, 8 Harpalyce, 12 Righteous Fury, 20 others.

2.15 HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (novices: £872: 2m) (9)

1 b4-2113 CHARLIE MUDDLE (D) (B Norman) S Mellor 7-11-10 ... S Jobar
2 341d32 ORIGINAL STEP (Mrs J Williams) T Hallett 7-11-10 ... B Wright 4
3 0-0130 IDEN GREEN (D) (P Hannaford) D Grissell 5-11-1 ... Mrs D Grissell 4
4 000-031 QUAYSIDE BATTLE (D) (R Waugh) J Edwards 5-11-1 ... P Blacker
5 0 BAY DRAKE (Miss B Lance) J Bridger 7-11-0 ... R Stronge 7
8 0 NATURE WALK (Mrs H Hawkins) J Jenkins 6-11-0 ... M Harrington 4
11 00-2404 STRAIGHT UP (A Aylett) A Aylett 6-11-0 ... G Jones
15 0-04240 "MR NIMBLE" (N Matheson) A Moore 5-10-10 ... G Moore 4
16 00 ROCK SAINT (G Gregson) G Gregson 5-10-10 ... P Carvill 4

6-4 Charlie Muddle, 9-4 Quayside Battle, 4 Original Step, 8 Iden Green, 12 Straight Up, 20 others.

2.45 I.G. INDEX LTD CHASE (Handicap: £1,812: 2m 3f 90yd) (6)

3 0100-p4 RODNEY PARADE (S Pelling) R Armytage 7-11-8 ... J Jenkins
5 00-403f SALDATORE (Mrs M Skinner) D Morley 5-11-5 ... B Davies
6 303200 RHEINRAY (C) (H O'Neill) H O'Neill 7-11-3 ... P Blacker
8 p33p00 WOOL MERCHANT (CB) (G Dedman) T M Jones 9-10-9 ... A Madgwick 7
9 04401f JIMPY (B) (J Bridger) J Bridger 7-10-7 ... R Stronge 7
10 0/003p MR PICKLES (M Bolton) M Bolton 8-10-2 ... R Rowell

13-8 Saldatore, 7-2 Rodney Parade, 9-2 Rheinray, 6 Jimpy, 10 Mr Pickles, 12 Wool Merchant.

3.15 POYNINGS HURDLE (Selling: 1788: 2m) (15)

2 000p BOLD JACK (G Greenwood) D Elsworth 8-11-7 ... C Brown
3 41p011 BRACAER BOY (D) (B Babbage) Mrs M Babbage 12-11-7 ... Mr N Babbage 4
8 fo-0000 DOUBLE-HEADER (D) (O Theuoca) D Jermy 7-11-7 ... G Old
9 4fr-000 GEETEEBEE (G Bird) A Moore 8-11-7 ... G Moore 4
10 2-23104 GOLDORATION (CD) (Mrs R Heaney) H O'Neill 7-11-7 ... F Grimes 7
12 HEROIC LADY (Mrs C Rendell-Roberts) R Juckes 9-11-7 ... P Carvill 4
15 200000 HOUSE BREAKER (D) (J Parish) W Charles 8-11-7 ... M Charles 4
16 10-0013 INDIANA DARE (Mrs D Cousins) J Jenkins 6-11-7 ... M Harrington 4
19 044100 MR LINNET (M James) P Butler 10-11-7 ... Mr P Butler
20 40500r NOTTER MILL (B Le Marquand) T Hallett 9-11-7 ... B Wright 4
24 00/00-0 REMA (P Topham) J O'Donoghue /-11-7 ... A Curran 4
25 p0p0- SEVENTH VALLEY (Mrs J Bloom) Mrs J Bloom 5-11-7 ... Mr M Bloom
26 0p0222 SPRINGFIELDCRACKER (J Gaisford) J Jenkins 8-11-7 ... —
28 333023 THE DOWNS (P Harrington) H O'Neill 6-11-7 ... M Hammond 7
29 1/ VRONDI (B Wise) B Wise 10-11-7 ... R Rowell

11-8 Bracae Boy, 7-2 Indiana Dare, 6 The Downs, 8 Goldoration, 10 Springfieldcracker, 12 Vrondi, Bold Jack, 20 others.

3.45 CLAPPER CUP CHASE (Hunters: £1,278: 3m 1f) (16)

1 p42010- COOLISHALL (B Munro-Wilson) B Munro-Wilson 13-12-9 ... B Munro-Wilson 4
2 f0/13- HESITATION (J Dufosee) J Dufosee 12-12-9 ... R Alner
3 212313- TROYSWOOD (R Waugh) J Edwards 10-12-9 ... Miss S Waugh 7
4 0bb/1p- LUCKY TESS (G Tregaskes) G Tregaskes 9-12-5 ... S Andrews 7
6 00p0/2- BEST BOY (T Hills) T Hills 9-12-0 ... T J Hills 7
7 000004- BUCK ROYALE (Mrs P Tory) P Tory 9-12-0 ... —
9 20330f0- DICKWYN (J Elliot) J Elliot 10-12-0 ... J Elliot 7
10 21up/ FLINTSTONE (R Butcher) R Butcher 12-12-0 ... —
11 20/0rp GONE OUT (Mrs R Murdoch) Mrs R Murdoch 12-12-0 ... Mrs L Jewell 7
12 GREAT HUNT (M Bloom) M Bloom 10-12-0 ... N Bloom 7
13 10/00p- HELLO LUNA (Mrs T Palmer) T Palmer 13-12-0 ... Mrs P Palmer 7
15 4/1221- LORD DAWSON (D White) D White 8-12-0 ... Mrs R White 7
16 0p41/u- LOYAL PARTNER (Mrs L Clay) T Clay 8-12-0 ... T Clay 7
18 442220- NIGHT SCHOOL (Mrs J Irish) Mrs J Irish 13-12-0 ... Mrs J Irish 7
19 p0/230- SET POINT (Lady Herries) Lady Herries 14-12-0 ... Miss B Kirkby 7
20 0-p0 SMART KID (R DUNN (R Dunn) 9-12-0 ... Mr N Dunn 7

7-2 Troyswood, 4 Coolishall, 6 Hesitation, 7 Lucky Tess, 8 Best Boy, 10 Lord Dawson, 12 Set Point, Loyal Partner, Night School, 20 others.

4.15 HICKSTEAD HURDLE (novices: £1,082: 2½m) (18)

2 14 MON'S BEAU (C) (M Vine) D Grissell 7-11-12 ... Mrs D Grissell 4
3 220433 TRACYS SPECIAL (C) (Maj J Rubin) R Hannon 5-11-9 ... S Jobar
4 0-00103 WIMSEY (D) (A Beckwith) R Hoad 5-11-9 ... Mr P Nicholls 7
5 00-000 ASPEN FLARE (P Pollock) R Howe 6-11-7 ... M Perrett 7
6 000 BUSTABY (D Mills) D Mills 6-11-7 ... A Madgwick 7
7 /430-p0 CHAIR OF KILDARE (W Whitbread) S Mellor 7-11-7 ... P Blacker
8 p FAIRLY HIGH (A McEntee) R Hoad 7-11-7 ... R Goldstein
13 0-p0p0 OUR LAL (B) (Mrs D Carter) S Harris 6-11-7 ... M Charles 4
16 0-0 TULLYASH (Mrs S Kelly) R Dunn 7-11-7 ... P Hobbs
17 38003/f WILLOW BROOK (R Pike) J Gifford 8-11-7 ... R Champion
22 0p GATHER NO MOSS (P Griffith) E Beeson 5-11-4 ... C Kinane
23 2420-00 KING RAGAPAN (B) (Mrs V McMahon) D Elsworth 5-11-4 ... C Brown
24 0000-0 L'EMPEREUR (G Peek) A Moore 5-11-4 ... G Moore 4
25 00p MORNING ENQUIRY (N Wheeler) N Wheeler 5-11-4 ... R Rowell
26 4112 ROYAL SWAN (R Cheetham) P Mitchell 4-11-0 ... R G Hughes
27 223 FITZHERBERT (I MacNicol) D Morley 4-10-4 ... B R Davies
28 0000 GRYLOS (C C W Ltd) O Jorgensen 4-10-4 ... P Haynes
30 00 RIGTON COUNTESS (Mrs H Beaufort) G Kindersley 4-10-4 ... P Barton

7-4 Royal Swan, 9-4 Fitzherbert, 7-2 Mon's Beau, 8 Wimsey, 10 Traceys Special, 12 King Ragapan, 20 others.

Plumpton selections

By Michael Seely
1.45 Furry Rock. 2.15 Charlie Muddle. 2.45 Saldatore. 3.15 Indiana Dare. 3.45 Lord Dawson. 4.15 Royal Swan.

Windsor results

1.45: 1, Chummy's Best (13-2); 2, Velasco (11-4 fav); 3, Martelli (7-1). 22 ran.
2.15: 1, David's Brig (16-1); 2, Durham Lad (20-1); 3, Professor Plum (5-1 jt fav). 11 ran. Hopeful Answer, Ulmar, Tower Moss 5-1 jt fav.
2.45: 1, Desert Hero (7-2 fav); 2 Hipparion (12-1); 3, Veramente (10-1). 15 ran.
3.15: 1, Manton Castle (9-4 fav); 2, Two Swallows (9-2); 3, Persian Wanderer (9-2). 7 ran.
3.45: 1, Wings Ground (9-2); 2, Ten Bears (9-2); 3, Nookie Bear (5-2 jt fav). 8 ran. Blue Patrol 5-2 jt fav.
4.15: 1, Sympatique (8-1); 2, Abo Ace (10-1); 3, Ray Charles (8-1). 20 ran. So Brave 11-4 fav. NR: Sir Domino, Tenth Hussar.

Ayr results

1.45 1, Home Ground (11-4 jt fav); 2, Press Gang (10-1); 3, Eadsworth Boy (11-4 jt fav). 11 ran. NR: Adam Craig.
2.15 1, Mountain Hays (16-1); 2, Pounentes (14-1); 3, Miss Couture (8-1). 16 ran. Glenvera and Wedded Bliss (4-1 jt fav). NR: Rosy's Song.
2.50 1, Seamus O'Flynn (2-1); 2, Slasher (33-1); 3, Pay Related (15-8 fav). 6 ran.
3.20 1, Multacurry (11-10 fav); 2, Lasobany (33-1); Little Bay (2-1). 7 ran.
3.50 1, Donjill (8-13); 2, Silent Reactor (8-1); 3, Soldier Bill (6-1). 9 ran. NR: Glandyne, My Saint Anne.
4.20 1, Ryecroft (9-4 fav); 2, Place Concorde (10-1); 3, Christmas Cottage (5-1). 17 ran. NR: Sunspeed.

Doncaster results

1.30: 1, Basil's Choice (13-8 fav); 2, Big Bryns (33-1); 3, One Armed Bandit (5-2). 16 ran. Nr: Royal Mere
2.00: 1, Rushmoor (9-4 fav); 2, Shiny Copper (10-1); 3, Brave Hussar (7-2). 9 ran.
2.35: 1, Bregawn (11-8 fav); 2, Megan's Boy (6-1); 3, Sugarally (6-1). 9 ran.
3.05: 1, Anglogs Daughter (11-4); 2, Beacon Light (5-1); 3, Prayukta (11-2). 5 ran. Western Rose 5-4 fav.
3.35: 1, Book of Kells (25-1); 2, Garby (9-4 fav); 3, Deep Sound (5-2). 11 ran.
4.05: 1, Bally-Go (14-1); 2, Mount Harvard (9-1); 3, Padaki (25-1). 15 ran. Brave Jack 7-2 fav. Nr: Jean Marjorie.

Cheltenham results

1.0 1, Sladebelle (13-8 fav); 2, Te Kanawa (6-1); 3, Thurslon (7-1). 22 ran.
1.35 1, Greencray (16-1); 2, Snowshill Sailor (5-2 jt fav); 3, Easter Eel (3-1). 6 ran.
2.10 1, Lesley Ann (5-2); 2, Tacroy (85-40); 3, Wayward Lad (8-5 fav). 3 ran. NR Solstuffs Boy.
2.45 1, Broadsword (11-2); 2, Heighlin (11-8 fav); 3, Pollardstown (7-2). 9 ran.
3.20 1, Combs Ditch (7-1); 2, Royal Pine (4-1); 3, Bright Dream (6-1). 12 ran. King Ba Ba 3-1 fav.
3.55 1, Cima (2-1 fav); 2, Maori Venture (50-1); 3, Rizzio (4-1). 22 ran.

More sport on page 18

Boxing



A world giant: Benitez 10ft tall after victory

Benitez snuffs out the Duran flame

Las Vegas, Jan 31.—Roberto Duran, the redoubtable Panamanian, spoke guardedly of retiring after failing in his attempt to win a third world title here last night. Duran, aged 30, a former holder of the lightweight and welterweight titles, was outpointed by the Puerto Rican Wilfred Benitez as he attempted to lift the World Boxing Council (WBC) light-middleweight crown.

Later, Duran was a little oblique in answering questions about possible retirement. "I don't think I should continue fighting," he said. He accepted that Benitez deserved his unanimous points win. Hal Miller had Benitez winning 143-142. Dave Moretti gave it to the champion 144-141 and the third judge Lou Tabat scored it 145-144.

The turning point came midway through the seventh round when the champion fought his way off the ropes and in a flurry of punches cut Duran over his left eye. The rest of the way it was all Benitez, the 23-ear-old champion luring Duran to the ropes where he repeatedl punished him with damaging combinations.

Benitez was just too much for Duran. He snapped the challenger's head back on several occasions with right-hand leads and on several other occasions with left hooks. He also scored with jarring jabs and mixed his attack to the body as well as to the head.

Inside, the 23-year-old Benitez was able to tie Duran up and the Panamanian even though he was a pound and a half heavier at 153½lb was unable to bull him into the ropes. Benitez often went for the ropes on his own and there outpunched Duran.

Most of the final round was spent in a neutral corner where the two went toe-to-toe, with Benitez holding the upper hand. On a couple of occasions, Duran backed away and Benitez waved to him to come back in. He also winked at the referee once.

Before the fight, Duran had said, "I've fought faster and better boxers. I've fought better hitters than Benitez." But he wasn't better than Benitez when he had to be. "He's going to give everything he has," Benitez had said. Duran did, but it wasn't enough to earn him a victory, which he hoped would lead to a rematch with Leonard and a chance to wipe out the disgrace of his 1980 loss in New Orleans.

Duran fought hard, but the fire that made him famous was missing from his performance. He charged, but the quickness wasn't there and often he seemed befuddled. Benitez not only had the reach advantage but seemed *to hit harder*.

Duran collected $300,000 for his night's work compared with $900,000 earned by Benitez, who was winning for the 43rd time in 45 contests.—Reuter and AP.

Technical victory

Los Angeles, January 30. — The World Boxing Association lightweight champion, Arturo Frias, retained his title and avenged the only loss of his career today with a ninth-round round of a scheduled 12-round bout. Dokes, whose record is now 24-0-1 with 13 knockouts, dropped Ball, ranked number nine by the WBC, twice with right hands to the head.

Michael Dokes, the World Boxing Council's number two-ranked heavyweight contender, remained undefeated when he stopped Lynn Ball in the first technical points win over Ernesto Espana, of Venezuela.

The bout was stopped by the ringside doctor with two minutes 34 seconds left of the ninth round after Frias has been unintentionally butted by Espana, opening up a cut under his left eye. Frias was ahead on all three scorecards and was declared the winner under WBA rules. — Reuter.

MOSCOW: International match: USSR beat United States 8—4.

Squash rackets

Briars finds bullseye with uncanny ease

By Rex Bellamy

The improbably strong squash connexion between Guernsey and Nottingham was emphasized yesterday when the Nottingham club's most eminent members, Lisa Opie and Gawain Briars (first and second in their respective national rankings), won the John Player tournament. Miss Opie is one of the four-strong Guernsey colony established in Nottingham since John le Lievre, the pioneer, went on tostudy at Loughborough University.

Miss Opie, aged 18, confirmed the rankings by beating Barbara Diggens (Sussex), England's captain, by 9—3, 9—2, 10—8. The final lacked the competitive intensity that might be expected from two of the world's seven leading players. Two friends were playing each other at midday on a Sunday to round off a small draw women's event that amounted to little more than a showcase for the local protégé.

Mrs Diggens broke even in terms of winners and losers, her backhand dominating both commodities. She had a game call in the third game. Miss Opie hit more than twice as many winners. She spent the first game finding the range with her backhand drop and forehand angles, the second hitting winners on the backhand, and the third hitting winners on the forehand—including a succession of fluent angles. Overall though, loose forehands cost her four penalties and she twice served out of court.

Briars and Ross Norman of Auckland are eleventh and eighth respectively in the world rankings and each exercises brief authority over the other. Yesterda Briars won 3—9, 9—2, 3—9, 9—3, 9—2 in 53 cinutes. Hitting short winners with drops and angles, Norman looked slightly the better until he slipped and fell to go 2—0 down in the fourth game. He was later to bang himself on the knee with his racket to go match point down but by that time everything had gone wrong for him anyway.

Briars had moved into a duty-free zone. In the last two games he hit 21 outright winners, finding the bullseye with uncanny ease when aiming for nick or a full length. A remarkable feature of the match as a whole was that Briars hit 14 masked winners that caught Norman on the wrong foot. At this level that is not easy to do

Briars had similarly come from behind on Saturday when beating Mohibullah Khan, who had never before lost a game to him. Stomach trouble had kept Mohibullah out of competition for almost two months but in short, fierce bursts he was irresistible. Briars was both good and lucky—good because he was never intimidated by the assaults and lucky because in the fifth game Mohibullah did not have a decisive burst left in him.

RESULTS: Semi-final. Men: G Briars beat Mohibullah Khan 6—9, 9—6, 7—9, 9—6, 9—3; R Norman beat J le Lievre 9—4, 9—7, 8—10, 9—1. Women: Miss L Opie beat Miss G Winckler 9—3, 9—3, 1—9, 9—3; Mrs B Diggens beat Miss S Devoy 9—5, 9—3, 9—0.

PLYMOUTH: Michael Spiers invitation tournament: Semi-finals: D Williams beat J Easter, 9—3, 9—2, 10—8; M Helal beat T Kenyon, 9—6, 9—1, 10—8. Final: Williams beat 9—5, 9—3, 9—5.

Badminton

A fragile new flower puts brightest bloom in shade

By Richard Eaton

New talent is flowering so luxuriantly that English badminton is becoming used to seeds being cast to the wind. Every single national title changed hands in December and on Saturday in the Friends Provident national under-21 championships at Macclesfield only the women's doubles saw the favourites land a title.

The unseeded Wendy Mason, from Solihull, became the most surprising women's singles champion for years, beating three seeded players, Diane Simpson, Gillian Clark and Gillian Gowers, in a row. Steve Butler, from Coventry, seeded only fourth, acquired his second singles title in three weeks, beating the favourite, Gary Asquith, to add to the national under-18 title he won at Watford. His success also made it a Warwickshire double.

But the biggest surprise was the failure of the women's top seed, Helen Troke, to complete a treble of singles titles when she was beaten in the semi-final round by the fourth-seeded and fragile-looking Miss Gowers, aged 17, from Hove. Perhaps Miss Troke, the hottest favourite for years, was feeling the pressure. Perhaps, too, Miss Gowers, who beat the England international, Paula Kilvington, in the national championships, had been a little under-estimated.

At all events Miss Troke, the yougest woman ever to play for England at the age of 16 last year and labelled as the bright new hope, was soundly beaten 11—2, 11—5. It was a reversal of the result in the under-18 final.

Thereafter Miss Gower's physical powers began to fail her. She was outlasted in the final 7—11, 12—9, 12—19 by Miss Masson, heavily built, despite having lost a stone in recent weeks, and the Sussex player went on to lose in all three finals.

Talent she has but stamina must be acquired if she is to survive the toil and travel of inhowever, did look an international of the future and one of these days this job as a bank clerk may have to go by the board.

RESULTS: Men's singles: S. Butler (Warwickshire) beat G. Asquith (Essex) 15—7, 15—7. Women's singles: Miss W. Masson (Warwickshire) beat Miss G. Gowers (Sussex) 7—11, 12—9, 11—10. Men's doubles: D Tailor (Middlesex) and C. Dobson (Worcestershire) beat M. Elliott (Surrey) and D. Burden (Yorkshire) 15—1, 15—13. Women's doubles: Miss G Clarke (Kent) and Miss L Pringle (Lancashire) beat Miss Gowers and Miss J. Edwards (Sussex) 15—5, 15—9. Mixed doubles: M. Gallrennie (Avon) and Miss N. Bowley (Avon) beat Miss Dobson and Miss Gowers 15—12, 7—15, 15—9.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

The BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD hereby give advance notice, in pursuance of Section 54 of the Transport Act, 1962, that they plan to withdraw freight facilities from the following stations in the month of March 1982:
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Particulars of the dates on which the facilities will be withdrawn and of alternative facilities will be announced locally in each case.
222 Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JJ.

THE CITY UNIVERSITY CONVOCATION
A Meeting of the Convocation will be held on Wednesday 10th February 1982 at 5.30 p.m. followed by the Annual Convocation Lecture to be given by Lord Scarman. A buffet supper will be served afterwards. Members who have not received due notice should advise the undersigned without delay.
T. J. HUGHES, Clerk.
Northampton Square
London EC1

EPSOM COLLEGE
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Governors of Epsom College will be held on Wednesday 3rd March 1982, at the offices of the Medical Defence Union, 3 Devonshire Place, London W1N 2EA, at 4.30 p.m.
The Agenda will include, in addition to the ordinary business, the filling of vacancies on the College Council.
By Order of the College Council.
W. S. THOMPSON, Secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL

TENDERS FOR GREATER LONDON BILLS
1. The Greater London Council hereby give notice that Tenders will be received at the Chief Registrar's Office (Bank Buildings) Bank of England, London, EC2R 8EU, on Monday, 8th February, 1982, at 12 noon for Greater London Bills to be issued in conformity with the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act, 1967, to the amount of £55,000,000.
2. The Bills will be in amounts of £5,000, £10,000, £25,000, £50,000, £100,000 or £250,000. They will be dated Thursday, 11th February, 1982, and will be due 91 days after date, without days of grace.
3. Each Tender must be for an amount not less than £25,000 and must specify the net amount per cent (being a multiple of one new halfpenny) which will be given for the amount applied for.
4. Tenders must be made through a London Banker, Discount House or Broker.
5. The Bills will be issued and paid at the Bank of England.
6. Notification will be sent by post, on the same day as Tenders are received, to the persons whose Tenders are accepted in whole or in part and payment in full of the amounts due in respect of such accepted Tenders must be made to the Bank of England, by means of cash or by draft or cheque drawn on the Bank of England, not later than 1.30 p.m. on Thursday, 11th February, 1982.
7. Tenders must be made on the printed forms which may be obtained either from the Bank of England, or from the Council's Offices at The County Hall.
8. The Greater London Council reserve the right of rejecting any Tenders.
M. F. STONEFROST, Comptroller of Finance
The County Hall,
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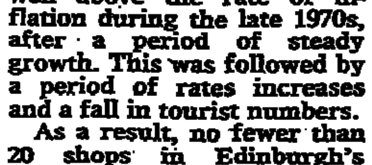
LEGAL NOTICES

Re: GILMARTIN ENGINEERING (LUTON) Limited and THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 293 of the Companies Act, 1948, that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held at New Cavendish House, 18 Maltravers Street, London WC2R 3EJ on Tuesday, 23rd February, 1982, at 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 294 and 295 of the said Act.
Dated this 25th day of January, 1982.
T. P. GILMARTIN, Director

No. 25 (Rule 58 (6))
In the matter of A.C. COACHES Limited. By order of the High Court dated the 11th day of November, 1981, Mr Ian McIsaac of Touche Ross & Co., Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR has been appointed LIQUIDATOR of the above-named Company WITHOUT A COMMITTEE OF INSPECTION.
Daetd this 23rd day of November, 1981.

Commercial Property by Gareth David

Demand for offices holds up well in Scotland



Demand for office accommodation in Scotland's leading cities has held up remarkably well in the past year, according to a survey by Kenneth Ryden & Partners, the estate agents, but the picture is different in the retail market.

Shop rents increased in both Glasgow and Edinburgh well above the rate of inflation during the late 1970s, after a period of steady growth. This was followed by a period of rates increases and a fall in tourist numbers.

As a result, no fewer than 20 shops in Edinburgh's Princes Street, regarded as one of the best retail pitches in the United Kingdom were placed on the market in 1981. This represents almost one third of the total number, and cut rents from about £100 a sq ft to £90 a sq ft during the first half of 1981.

But as prime rents slipped in both Edinburgh and Glasgow, they have held up well in both regional centres and well placed secondary locations, particularly in Edinburgh, where demand is firm and rental growth, good.

One consequence of the economic climate has been to hasten changes in the retailing pattern, Ryden say. Furniture and department stores have been driven off high streets and independent traders and small multiples are finding it difficult to trade in the best locations.

There are a number of big retail developments planned in Scotland illustrating the underlying strength of the retail market, the survey says. These include the Waverley Market and Lady Road schemes in Edinburgh; developments by GUS, Bredero and Atholl Investments in Aberdeen; and further phases of shopping centres at East Kilbride, Livingston, Glenrothes, Coatbridge and Kirkcaldy.



Weatherall Green & Smith, the London estate agents, have been appointed European letting agents for Charles H. Shaw's 113,130 sq ft office and banking scheme at 551 Madison Avenue, on the corner of 55th Street in Midtown Manhattan, New York. Rents are from $42 to $55 inclusive of real estate taxes and service charges.

In the office market, the demand in Edinburgh remains for small suites of up to 5,000 sq ft, although the second half of 1981 saw two large lettings in the city. Scottish Equitable took 23,000 sq ft in St Andrew Square, while there was a 28,000 sq ft pre-let in Belford Road to the Health and Safety Executive.

Office space dropped marginally during the year to 689,600 sq ft with the number of large units slowly decreasing. The largest vacant office building is Wimpey Property Holdings' Rosebury House, which extends to 67,300 sq ft.

Rents have shown little growth in the past year and remain between £4 and £5 a sq ft, with the figure rising to as much as £6.50 per sq ft for the best small suites.

In Glasgow, demand has centred on units of between 2,000 and 3,000 sq ft with little letting of larger units during the second half of 1981. There is very little space in the central area, and, as a result, rents have stayed at £6 a sq ft with between £6.50 and £7 expected by the end of 1982.

There are, however, a number of developments under way in St Vincent Street, West Regent Street, West Campbell Street and at Charing Cross, which should provide a further 150,000 sq ft by 1983.

Office lettings in Aberdeen were down in the second half of 1981, but demand is not static and some 70,000 sq ft is under offer, the survey says.

□ Work has begun on a 220,000 sq ft air conditioned office development above Victoria railway station, the latest scheme to be undertaken by Greycoat Estates.

The group became public only in 1978 when the directors of the private Greycoat Estates group merged with Chaddesley Investments an inactive publicly quoted property company, bringing with it equity stakes in a number of big schemes.

But it was only the £39m takeover of City Offices, agreed last December by the City Offices board, which gave Mr Geoffrey Wilson and Mr Stuart Lipton, the directors, the asset backing they sought, and transformed the group into an important force in the property market.

Attentioin has inevitably focused on the group's controversial Coin Street proposals, where the public inquiry into the proposed office development of between 885,000 sq ft and 995,000 sq ft is likely to last until the end of March.

The Greycoat share price has risen high on hopes that when Mr Heseltine finally passes judgment on the 12.5-acre site, probably early in the summer, he will give his blessing to one of the two Greycoat schemes designed by Richard Rogers.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Re: MOORE BROTHERS (BRENTFORD) Ltd (In Voluntary Liquidation) and the COMPANIES ACT, 1948
Notice is hereby given that the CREDITORS of the above named Company are required on or before Friday, 12th March, 1982, to send their names and addresses and particulars of their Debts or Claims to the undersigned David Julian Buchler, FCA, of Bernard Phillips and Company, New Cavendish House, 18 Maltravers Street, London, WC2R 3EJ the LIQUIDATOR of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time or place as shall be specified in such notice or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such Debts are proved.
Dated this 22nd day of January, 1982.
DAVID JULIAN BUCHLER (Chartered Accountant)

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

". . . THE LORD THY GOD will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren . . . unto him ye shall hearken." — Deuteronomy 18: 15.

BIRTHS

AKIBA.—On January 27th, 1982, at Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, to Yoko and Shigeru—a daughter (Rie), first grandchild for Nagao and Akiba families in Japan.

GRAHAM-BROWN.—On January 28th, at the Royal Free Hospital, to Margaret (nee Graham) and Robin (Matthew Paul Mark), a lovely brother for James.

HIGHAM.—On January 22nd, in Hongkong, to Janet and Robin—a daughter (Jessica).

KELLY.—On January 26, to Elizabeth and John—a son (Thomas Lyndon Edward), a brother for Joel on his 2nd birthday.

SECCOMBE.—On January 27th, to Isobel (nee Urquhart) and Philip—a son.

MARRIAGE

CARR : GARDNER.—At Cairns Church, Lanark, on December 30th, 1981, Dermot Stephen Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs B. V. Carr, 68 William Dunbar Albert Road, Queen's Park, London, to Susan Margaret Lynn, only daughter of the late Dr I. H. Gardner and of Mrs A. Armstrong, 10 Delves Park, Lanark.

DEATHS

ALLIN.—On January 28th, in Hereford, peacefully after a long illness, Trevor Robert William Allin, formerly of Malaya, beloved husband of Anne, and dear father of Jane Manley and Penelope Portman. Cremation private.

GRAHAM, SIR RICHARD BELLINGHAM, O.B.E., D.L., 10th Bart. of Norton Conyers.—On January 29th, peacefully, at the Duchy Hospital, Harrogate, aged 69, husband of Beatrice. Family funeral at St Mary's, Wath on Tuesday, February 2nd at 2.30 p.m. No flowers. Memorial service in Ripon Cathedral on Friday, February 12th at 2.30 p.m.

SHIERS.—On January 29th, 1982, peacefully at her home, Elsie, wife of the late John Jordan Shiers, of Wilmslow and Alderley Edge, loved mother and grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving to be held at St Mary's Church, Nether Alderley, on Monday, 8th February, 1982, at 2.30 p.m. No flowers by request. Donations, if desired, to the Treasurer, Upton Grange (Cheshire Residential Homes), Prestbury Road, ...

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9.08 For Schools, Colleges: Behind the scenes of a department store. 9.33 A trainee in management. 10.00 You and Me. For the very young (not Schools). 10.15 Music Time. 10.38 Modern History: Britain Alone. 11.00 Travelling by horse and motor. 11.23 Talkabout. 11.42 The rehearsal of the play, Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. 12.07 Closedown. 12.30 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial Report and news headlines with subtitles). 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Peter Purves and a camping holiday in Snowdonia. 1.45 Camberwick Green. A See-Saw programme for the very young (r). 2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Words and Pictures. 2.18 From the Caribbean. 2.40 Designing Structures. 3.00 Delia Smith's Cookery Course. Rice (r). 3.25 See Hear! A magazine programme for the hearing impaired (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2).
4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel in Wolf in Cheap Cheap Clothing.
4.25 Jackanory. Tony Aitken reads part one of the Eggbox Brontosaurus.
4.40 Playhouse: The Toy Princess starring Geoffrey Palmer.
5.05 John Craven's Newsround.
5.10 Blue Peter.
5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six.
6.25 Nationwide.
6.55 Doctor Who. Peter Davison in part one of Kinda.
7.20 The Rockford Files. The doleful detective is asked to prove that a death was not suicide (r).
8.10 Panorama: Unfinished Business. Philip Tibbenham reports on Israel's gun running to Iran.

9.00 News with John Humphrys.
9.25 Last of the Summer Wine. Compo's heroism knows no bounds as he vows to have his picture taken in that holy of holies — Nora Batty's bedroom.
9.55 Police. The Thames Valley Police investigate a suspicious death when a body is found at the foot of some stairs.
10.40 Film 82. Glyn Worsnip reviews Ghost Story starring Fred Astaire and Douglas Fairbanks Jr and Neil Simon's latest, It Hurts Only When I Laugh.
11.10 Big Jim and the Figaro Club. Unusual comedy series set in the immediate post-war years and featuring a gang of builders.
11.38 News headlines.
11.40 Speak for Yourself. How to deal with neighbours.
12.05 Weather.

BBC1 VARIATIONS: CYMRU/WALES 12.57pm 1.00 News of Wales. 1.45-2.01 Pili Pala. 6.00-6.25 Wales today. 6.55-7.20 Heddiw. 7.20-7.45 Campus Gamau (part 5). 7.45-8.10 Dr Who. 12.05am News and weather. SCOTLAND 11.00am-11.23 For Schools: Let's See: Messages. 12.55pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 6.00-6.25 Reporting Scotland. 11.00-11.40 Clearcall. 11.40 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND 12.57pm 1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.53-3.55 Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.25 Scene Around Six. 6.25-6.55 Land 'N' Larder. 12.05am News and weather. ENGLAND 6.00pm-6.25 Regional News Magazines. 12.10am Close.

BBC 2

10.10 Managing the Micro (r) 10.35 Speak for Yourself. Getting on with neighbours 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Sarah Long and Don Spencer. The story is Mrs Wobble the Waitress by Allan Ahlberg 11.25 Play it Safe! Jimmy Savile with tips on child safety (r) 11.35 Write Away. A guide to everyday writing presented by Barry Took (r) 11.50 Closedown 2.00 A Child's Place. The rights of children. Part four: Kids and Play Space (r) 2.25 Maths Help. 2.40 Other People's Lives. Christian worship in Malta 3.05 The Computer Programme. Exploring the world of information science 3.30 Business Club. The first of five programmes about running small businesses (r)

3.55 Film: The Silent Bell* (1944) starring Simone Simon and Jason Roberts Sr. Drama set in the time of the Franco-Prussian war.
5.05 World Ski-ing Championships.
5.40 Laurel and Hardy in Going Bye Bye* (1934)
6.00 Maggie. (r)
6.25 Mr Smith's Favourite Garden. Hollow Wall and Table Bed
6.50 News with subtitles
6.55 Riverside. Trends for 1982
7.30 The Genuine Article How to spot fake coins
7.55 Porridge. A fellow convict who believes he does not have long to live wants Fletcher to inherit his hidden loot (r)
8.25 Grace Kennedy. The talented singer has Richard Stilgoe as one of her guests

9.00 Not the Nine O'Clock News. The irreverent quartet of Rowan Atkinson, Mel Smith, Gryff Rhys Jones and Pamela Stephenson begin another series of anarchic humour
9.25 Horizon: Whatever Happened to the Energy Crisis? Energy in future. The alternative to nuclear power
10.15 West Country Tales: The Poacher dramatised by Tom Salmon. A poacher who has been following his calling for over half his life and is somewhat of an expert, suddenly meets something unexpected in the woods one night. Starring Dave Royal as the poacher
10.45 Newsnight The latest world news plus an extended look at one of the major stories of the day
11.30 Tele-Montage. A French-speaking television programme about the Belgian artist, Jean Michel Folon, visiting a school.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Picture Box. 9.47 Imaginary animals. 10.04 Sending a birthday card. 10.21 Part four of Macbeth. 10.48 Insight. For the hearing impaired. 11.05 Starting science. 11.22 Modern life in an old village. 11.39 The legacy of Faisal. 12.00 Cockleshell Bay. With the Cockle twins for the very young (r). 12.10 Rainbow Learning with Puppets. 12.30 Do it Herself. Advice for the practical lady introduced by Muriel Clark and Anne Brand. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames news. 1.30 About Britain: Johnny Doughboy A nostalgic look at the GIs in Ulster (r). 2.00 Money-go-Round. Among the items is a look at the high cost of spectacles. 2.30 Film: A Prize of Gold (1954) starring Richard Widmark and Mai Zetterling. Joe Lawrence, an American army sergeant in occupied Berlin, falls for a girl who is working to send war orphans to a new life in South America. To help her he plans to steal two million dollars in gold.

4.15 Cartoon: Dangermouse
4.20 Graham's Ark. Garden Ponds
4.45 The Book Tower with Stephen Moore
5.15 Mr and Mrs. Quiz programme between three married couples
5.45 News 6.00 Thames news
6.25 Help! Viv Taylor Gee with the first of three programmes on alcoholism.
6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 Wish You Were Here . . .? Chris Kelly visits the Dingle peninsula; Judith Chalmers, Languedoc; and Ed Stewart continues his fly/drive holiday to Florida
7.30 Coronation Street. The Rovers' Return gets a Space Invader machine
8.00 Let There Be Love. The comical courtship of a widow with three children
8.30 World in Action: Private Darkin's Army. An investigation into the bullying of Army recruits

9.00 Hill Street Blues: The Second Oldest Profession. One of police chief Furillo's officers, Lucy Bates, has a career crisis when a prostitute for whom she is responsible takes a drug overdose
10.00 News
10.30 Film: The Diamond Mercenaries (1975) starring Telly Savalas and Peter Fonda. Savalas plays the security chief of a fortress-like diamond mine. When diamonds begin to go missing he takes personal charge of the investigations. Complications arise when a gang of mercenaries led by Mike Bradley (Peter Fonda) become involved.
12.25 Close with Quentin Crisp




Quentin Crisp: ITV 12.25am

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Week.
6.30 Today.
8.35 The Week on 4.
8.45 John Ebdon with a selection from the BBC Sound Archives.
9.00 News.
9.05 Start The Week with Richard Baker.
10.00 News.
10.02 Money Box.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Morning Story: "The Bum" by W. Somerset Maugham.
11.00 News.
11.05 Down Your Way.
11.50 Poetry Please!
12.00 News.
12.02 You and Yours.
12.27 Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful. Comedy series.†
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Afternoon Theatre: "Welcome, These Pleasant Days" by Michael Robson.
4.35 Back in Ten Minutes. A walk through Oxford.
4.45 Story Time: "Marital Rites" by Margaret Forster (6).
5.00 PM: News magazine.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News, including Financial Report.
6.30 Just a Minute. A panel game.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Start The Week with Richard Baker.
8.00 The Monday Play: "A Fool For A Cigarette" by Alan McDonald.
9.15 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight: News.
10.30 Science Now.
11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Portrait of the Artist As A Young Man" by James Joyce (11).
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News: Weather Report; Forecast.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Morning Concert: Handel, Ravel, Mozart; records.†
8.00 News.
8.05 Morning Concert (continued): Alwyn, Lambert, Britten, Arnold; records.
9.00 News.
9.05 This Week's Composers: Tomaso Albinoni and Benedetto Marcello; records.†
9.45 Lutyens and Gurney: Song recital.†
10.30 Music for Organ: Recital in King's College Chapel, Cambridge: Alain.†
11.15 Schumann: Piano Trio recital.†
11.45 BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra: Concert: Mozart.†
1.00 News.
1.05 BBC Lunchtime Concert direct from St John's, Smith Square, London. Piano Quartet recital: Beethoven, Fauré.†
2.10 Matinee Musicale: Concert: Weber, Butterworth, Vaughan Williams, Peter Hope, Geoffrey Toye, Bizet.†
3.10 The Songs of Mussorgsky: Song recital.†
3.30 New Records: Weber, Schumann, Schubert.†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure with Michael Berkeley.†
7.00 Aspects of the Blues (series). Illustrated talk by Francis Smith (5) "Tragedy and Disaster".
7.30 Blooms of Dublin. A musical for radio with words and music by Anthony Burgess based on "Ulysses" by James Joyce.†
10.30 Jazz in Britain featuring the Mike Westbrook Orchestra.†
11.00 News.
11.05 Bohemian Nights: Kozeluh; record.†
MEDIUM FREQUENCY-/MEDIUM WAVE with vhf above except: 7.05-11.15 Cricket.

David Hamilton: Radio 2 4.00pm

Radio 2

5.00am News. 5.03 Ray Moore including 6.2 Cricket Desk.† 7.30 Terry Wogan.† 10.00 Jimmy Young.† 12.03pm Gloria Hunniford including 1.45 Sports Desk.† 2.00 Ed Stewart including 2.45, 3.45 Sports Desk.† 4.00 David Hamilton including 4.45 Sports Desk.† 5.45 News; Sport.† 6.00 John Dunn including 6.45 Sports Desk.† 8.00 Folk on 2 featuring Gary & Vera Aspey: Kitskye Will.† 9.00 Humphrey Lyttleton with the Best of Jazz.† 10.00 Monday Movie Quiz with Ray Moore. 10.30 Star Sound with Nick Jackson. 11.00 Brian Matthew with Round Midnight, including: 12.00am Midnight Newsroom; Weather; Motoring information (in Stereo from 12.00 midnight. 1.00 Truckers' Hour with Sheila Tracy.† 2.00-5.00 You and the Night and the Music, with Richard Clegg.



Andy Peebles: Radio 1 7.00pm

Radio 1

5.00am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis including, 12.30pm Newsbeat. 2.00 Paul Burnett. 3.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Peter Powell. 7.00 Stayin' Alive with Andy Peebles. 8.00 David Jensen. 10.00 John Peel.† 12.00 Midnight, Close.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648 kHz (463m) at the following times GMT:— 6.00am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 7.30 Country Style. 7.45 Short Story. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 The London Bach. 8.30 Baker's Half Dozen. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 Notes from An Observer. 9.20 Good Books. 9.35 Interlude. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 A Word in Edgeways. 10.15 The Instrument Makers. 10.30 Smash of the Day: The Navy Lark. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Backtracking. 11.30 Pageant of the Past. 12.00pm Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 1.30 Country Style. 1.45 Is Small Still Beautiful? 2.15 The End of the Affair. 2.30 Rock Salad. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 The Red and the Black. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Europa. 5.25 New Ideas. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary. 9.15 Europa. 9.30 Rock Salad. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book Choice. 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Classical Record Review. 11.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 12.00 World News. 12.09am News About Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Radio Theatre. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Europa. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Sports International. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 John Peel. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 VHF 90-92.5MHz, MF 1215kHz/247m. Radio 4 LF 200kHz/1500m and VHF 92-95MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. LBC MF 1152khz/261m, VHF 97.3MHz. Capital MF 1548kHz/194m, VHF 95 8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 1458kHz/206m and VHF 94 9MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

GRANADA

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Granada Reports. 2.30-4.30 Film: Best Pair of Legs in the Business (Reg Varney, Diana Coupland). Ageing second-rate music hall comedian learns that his wife is about to leave him. 5.15-5.45 Adventures of Dick Turpin. 6.00 Mr Merlin. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 9.00-10.00 Quincy. 10.30 Best Sellers: "From Here to Eternity." Final episode of dramatization of James Jones's novel. 12.20am Closedown.

TSW

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Sunstruck (Harry Secombe, Maggie Fitzgibbon) Welsh school teacher jilted in love decides to emigrate). 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Two of US. 10.32 News. 10.35 Ladies Man. 11.05 Golfing Greats: Johnny Miller. 11.30 Barney Miller. 11.55 Postscript. 12.01 am Closedown.

GRAMPIAN

As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Amorous Prawn (Ian Carmichael, Joan Greenwood) Comedy about Army HQ turned into a haven for tourists. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.30-7.00 Country Focus. 10.30 Film: Seven-Ups (Roy Scheider, Tony Lo Bianco) Group of detectives who hunt criminals punishable by seven years or more in prison. 12.25 News 12.30 Closedown.

YORKSHIRE

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Catch Me A Spy. (Kirk Douglas, Trevor Howard). Comedy thriller in which a British agent falls in love with the wife of a Russian spy. 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 It's a Vet's Life. 9.00-10.00 Quincy 10.30 There's Life North of Watford. 11.00 Lou Grant. 12.00 Closedown.

CHANNEL

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Sunstruck (Harry Secombe) Jilted teacher decides to emigrate. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 News. 6.30-7.00 Two of Us. 10.28 News. 10.35 Ladies Man. 11.05 Golfing Greats: Johnny Miller. 11.30 Barney Miller. 11.55 Closedown.

ULSTER

As Thames except: Starts 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime 2.30-4.15 Film: Suez (Tyrone Power, Loretta Young) French diplomat envisages building the Suez Canal. 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Good Evening Ulster. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.30-7.00 Mr and Mrs. 9.00-10.00 Quincy. 10.30 Welcome Back Kotter. 11.00 Face Your Future. 11.25 Bedtime, Closedown.

TYNE TEES

As Thames except: Starts 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Gangway* (Jessie Matthews, Barry Mackay) Early British screen musical. 5.15-5.45 Happy Days. 6.00 News. 6.02 Mr and Mrs 6.30-7.00 Northern Life. 10.30 News. 10.32 Briefing: Football. 11.15 Lou Grant. 12.10 am Epilogue. 12.15 Closedown.

TVS

As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 TVS News. 2.30-4.15 Film: The Card* (1952) (Alec Guiness, Glynis Johns, Valerie Hobson). 5.15 Radio. 5.30-5.45 Coast to Coast. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.30-7.00 Gillan. 10.30 A Full Life. 11.00 Thriller: File It Under Fear. 12.25 am Company.

HTV WEST

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.30-4.15 Film: Catch Me a Spy. Comedy thriller in which a British agent falls in love with a Russian spy's wife. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-7.00 News. 10.28 News. 10.30 Soap. 11.00 Gillan. 11.30 Parents and Teenagers. 12.00 Closedown.

HTV CYMRU/WALES

As HTV West except: 12.00-12.10 pm Ffalabalam. 4.15-4.20 Mr Magoo. 4.45-5.15 Sêr. 6.00 Y Dydd. 6.30-7.00 Report Wales. 8.30-9.00 Yr Wythnos. 11.00-11.30 World In Action.

ANGLIA

As Thames except: Starts 1.20 pm-1.30 News 2.30-4.15 Film: President's Mistress (Beau Bridges, Karen Grassle) Thriller about political intrigue and cover-ups. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00 About Anglia 6.30-7.00 Survival 10.30 Anglia Reports 11.00 Palace Presents: Charlie Callas 12.00 Superstar Profile: Donald Sutherland 12.30 am Reflection

CENTRAL

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Mind of Mr Soames (Robert Vaughan, Terence Stamp) man in a coma for 30 years is cured but faces the world as an infant. 3.45-4.15 Money-Go-Round. 6.00-7.00 News. 10.30 Parents and Teenagers. 11.00 News. 11.05 Left, Right and Centre: Presented by Jon Lander. 11.45 Paris by Night. 12.15 am Something Different. 12.30 Closedown.

SCOTTISH

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Rattle of the Simple Man. (Harry H. Corbett, Diane Cilento) Comedy of a man who is painfully shy with women. 3.45-4.15 Money-go-round. 5.15-5.45 Emmerdale Farm. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.40-7.00 Crimedesk. 10.30 Late Call. 10.40 Golfing Greats: Byron Nelson. 11.05 Film: Devil's Web. 12.25 am Closedown.

BORDER

As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00 Film: Nurse Edith Cavell (Anna Neagle), story of Edith Cavell. 3.45-4.15 Money-go-round. 5.15-5.45 Bygones. 6.00 Lookaround. 6.15 Sound of . . . Lorna Dallas. 6.30-7.00 Mr & Mrs. 10.30 Film: Death in Small Doses, butler sets out to poison his employer in order to extort her millions. 11.40 News. 11.43 Closedown.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: † STEREO *: BLACK AND WHITE: (r) REPEAT.

CHOICE



Rowan Atkinson: BBC 2 9.00pm

● In WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE ENERGY CRISIS? (BBC 2, 9.25 pm) Horizon puts forward the interesting theory that we could make do with as little as half the energy we use now and not notice any difference. This startling surmise has come to the fore now that the world's resources of fossil fuels are coming to an end. When this eventually happens energy providing authorities are anxious that we should be reliant on nuclear energy. But not only conservationists are against a proliferation of nuclear power stations, many of the men on the Clapham omnibus are now concerned with the safety factor of such establishments following the accident at Three Mile Island and the one last month in New York State. This is apart from the massive capital outlay needed by the Government for the construction of the plants. This film shows there is a viable alternative. Using Sweden as an example it shows that it is possible to plan for low energy growth. They have to import nearly three-quarters of their energy needs but through a combination of energy conservation and the use of wind and water power, Sweden is anticipating zero energy growth by the last decade of the century. Could we do the same? Horizon thinks we can.

● World in Action's PRIVATE DARKIN'S ARMY (ITV, 8.30 pm) looks at the disturbing trend of bullying raw service recruits by more established personnel. Two years ago 18-year-old James Darkin from Manchester, who after 18 months in the Pioneer Corps, wrote a seven page letter to his CO at the Northampton camp where he was stationed, explaining why he was going to kill himself. The poor young man, although frightened enough of death, told his CO that it was preferable to the treatment meted out to him by his fellow soldiers. What can be done to stop young men like Darkin being bullied and how widespread is the practice? World in Action investigates what is being done to prevent situations such as those that drove Darkin to a drug overdose.

● BBC Radio's Joycentenary continues tonight with the world premiere of BLOOMS OF DUBLIN (Radio 3, 7.30 pm) a musical with words, written for radio by Anthony Burgess. Joyce's story of Dublin life at the turn of the century would seem a difficult subject for a best selling author to put to music but Burgess's early career as a composer stands him in good stead and his lyrics have captured the seedy decadence of the story.

Entertainments Guide

Schmidt derides reports of health trouble

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Jan 31

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, laughed and chatted far into the night at the Hamburg press ball last night while the country was buzzing with reports that he had collapsed, and warnings that he might resign.

"They're talking nonsense", he retorted when asked about press reports that he had been taken ill at the Lower Saxony Social Democrat Party Congress in Hanover on Saturday.

The Chancellor, who had a pace-maker inserted in October after recurrent heart trouble, suddenly walked out of the congress shortly after making a 90-minute speech, his face bright red and covered with beads of sweat.

After a 15-minute rest and a drink of water he returned, apparently recovered. The Government press office said later that he had been suffering from cramp—they would not say where—which had gone away of its own accord.

Given the Chancellor's, and therefore his spokesmen's, tendency to conceal or play down any signs of ill health, journalists now take such remarks with a pinch of salt. But the Chancellor, who has appeared fitter than at any time since his operation, proceeded to allay fears by enjoying himself at the annual press ball in his native city.

He did not dance, but talked animatedly for several hours to foreign and German guests.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor and his staff were attempting to soften his threat, reported by a close colleague on Friday, that he would resign if the Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition parties failed to agree to a plan to finance an urgently needed unemployment scheme. Herr Schmidt is insisting on a solution in time for the cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The Chancellor made it clear at the local party congress in Hanover that he was not yearning to step down before the current legislature ends in 1984, but that disagreements and dissent could make his job impossible.

"I don't want to leave the ship", he said, "but one cannot go on indefinitely steering a ship with 27 or 30 would-be helmsmen."

His threat — or warning, as his staff prefer to call it—was clearly not as serious and irrevocable as his insistence that he will go if the SPD withdraws its support from Nato's deploy-and-negotiate missile decision, which is a fundamental pillar of his security policy.

The situation, with leaders of the two parties still completely at odds about where the money for the scheme is to come from, is being treated extremely seriously here. Herr Herbert Wehner, the SPD Bundestag floor leader, predicted that if a solution were not found, the coalition would break up in the next few weeks. Frantic behind-the-scenes contacts were going on this weekend.

Dying girl's screams were heard for 25 minutes

A girl aged 17 was found dead near a large block of London flats after residents heard screams for help for about twenty-five minutes.

Mr Robert Wareham, who lives in the flats in De Beauvoir Road, Islington, north London, said: "After 15 to 20 minutes the screaming got louder and help was called for a couple of times. Then it just stopped. It sounded like a girl friend and boy friend arguing, shouting, and running up and down. Almost every night there is noise. Either children playing out late or couples fighting."

The girl was named as Sharon Locke, who lived in the Islington area. Detective Superintendent Alan Lacey said: "She put up one hell of a fight, possibly for a considerable time." Reports that her screams were heard for 25 minutes late on Friday night "could well be right" he said, although her body was not discovered until the next morning.

Asked if he found it amazing that people could have heard screams and not called the police, Mr Lacey said: "As a policeman, yes. But as a person, this is a fact of life that we have to live with all the time . . . people will not call us often enough."

Last night a youth aged 16 was charged with murdering Sharon Locke, Scotland Yard said. He will appear at Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court today.

King's men for a day

Suresh Karadia



PRIVATES' PROGRESS: Members of the English Civil War Society, dressed in seventeenth-century uniform, pass by the statue of Charles I in Trafalgar Square yesterday, after a parade to commemorate his execution. A wreath was laid at the base of the statue before the parade.

Clashes in Gdansk as martial law eases

Continued from page one

politics—is clearly at the root of many of the Military Council's recent actions. It has announced the establishment of a price commission to investigate unwarranted price rises, and a long list of products that will now be subject only to regulated price increases.

This latter measure effectively negates one of the key elements of price reform, the freedom of enterprises to fix prices themselves according to how much it costs to manufacture their products. However, the Government seems reconciled to throwing this theoretical ballast overboard to maintain a degree of public calm.

There is no sign of concessions on the key issues but church authorities say up to 4,000 internees may be released in two months' time if there is no serious unrest.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, has now been told he is being held in house arrest under the internment regulations. This clears one obstacle for his release to the Church. A statement of his legal status was needed before some form of legally binding transfer document could be drawn up.

As more and more internees are released, accurate accounts of internment conditions are emerging. One graphic account was made available to Western correspondents at the weekend by a woman released, because of ill health, from a special female centre.

Conditions at first were almost unbearably cold because the women were accommodated in a part of a normal criminal prison that had been unused since March. Clothes had to be washed in the lavatory and froze in minutes. After a few days, internment became better organized, including daily gymnastics and political education lessons.

For the first fortnight rations were extremely meagre. Breakfast was a slice of bread, margarine and thin coffee, lunch was soup and dinner was bread and margarine again. After two weeks prisoners were allowed food parcels from relatives—the normal conditions of criminal imprisonment—and an hour's visit from relatives once a month.

There were 80 to a hundred women in the internment wing and most have now been transfered to a new centre believed to be near the Soviet border.

Crisis in culture, page 4

Biggest oil terminal threatened

From Jonathan Wills Lerwick, Shetland

Britain's biggest oil terminal could be shut down later this month if a planned strike goes ahead at Sullom Voe in Shetland. Three hundred men who operate jetties, oil storage tanks and processing equipment have given notice to BP, the operator of the terminal, that they will go on official strike next Friday in support of a pay claim.

The company has offered an increase of 7 per cent; the men are seeking 15 per cent.

Without the jetty workers the terminal would have to stop loading tankers, and the 16 tanks at Sullom Voe would soon fill. Production at seven off-shore oil fields would then have to stop.

At present Sullom Voe is shipping out just under one million tons of crude oil a week, most of it to United Kingdom and European ports. The terminal is due to make its first shipments of liquefied petroleum gas early next April.

This is the first serious industrial dispute among operation staff at the terminal since it opened in November, 1978, although there have been several stoppages by construction workers.

Tory Budget dissenters to coordinate tactics

Continued from page one

would have been defeated in committee, where the Government has only a majority of two. The Opposition is united and at least three Tory MPs are not prepared to support the clause.

Treasury and environment ministers are expected to meet early this week to discuss how the Bill can be amended. The Treasury has opposed the dropping of the power.

But Mr Robin Squire, one of the Conservative MPs on the committee who oppose the plan, has tabled a new clause to end the so called "mid-year hold-back". He said last night that it was considered unfair because the effect of a future intervention by the secretary of state could not be calculated at the time the council was fixing its arte.

When the committee stage of the Bill resumes tomorrow, the Opposition is to demand a statement from Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, to clarify the position on the offending clause.

☐ Conservative MPs, unhappy at the apparent outcome of last Thursday's Cabinet meeting, are planning informal meetings at Westminster this week to coordinate their tactics for the weeks leading up to the Budget on March 9.

Their discussions will take place against the background of growing concern that the ministers they regarded as their champions in the Cabinet room appear to have agreed too readily to the demands of the Treasury for a cautious Budget.

The "wets" intend, none the less, to keep up their pressure on Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This week's informal contacts will involve far more than the 14 MPs who demonstrated their dissatisfaction by withholding their support from the Government in a vote on economic policy before Christmas.

Tory dissenters are increasingly talking of up to six of their number considering leaving the party after the Budget, if their demands are totally ignored.

But yesterday a new possibility was being canvassed. It was said that at least another half a dozen MPs, who could not bring themselves to join another party, might consider renouncing the Conservative whip.

Fairbairn says rape decision was not his

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, former Solicitor General for Scotland, who resigned recently over the Glasgow rape case, said yesterday that he had not been informed of the original decision not to prosecute three youths. The decision had been taken by prosecution lawyers with the "utmost propriety" and he had "taken the rap".

He would not say if he would have taken the same decision had he known of the case at the time. "I might have and I might not have. I certainly would not say that the decision that was taken was wrong."

Mr Fairbairn, MP for Kinross and West Perthshire, made his comments in an interview for Agenda, BBC Scotland's political programme.

The decision not to prosecute is reported to have been taken after a psychiatrist concluded that the woman would suffer irreparable mental harm if she had to give evidence. She has since said she hopes to bring a private prosecution against the youths.

Mr Fairbairn said: "I would not have liked to have stood at the dispatch box and defended a situation in which somebody had taken their own life as a result of a decision that had been taken by my office."

Mr Fairbairn, who at times in the interview seemed close to tears, denied that Mrs Thatcher asked him to quit, and said he hoped his resignation would restore confidence in Scottish law. He described the Prime Minister as "very loving, very kind, and very compassionate."

He added: "She is one of the most compassionate people I have met. She has real soul, real human concern for everybody". For the future, he said that he would write, paint, and serve his constituents. But, asked if he accepted that it was unlikely he would hold office again, he said: "I would not accept that it is unlikely I will receive office again. I may or I may not — just have to wait and see".

Asked if he felt bitter, and if he thought that Lord Mackay, of Clashfern, the Lord Advocate, the senior Scottish law officer, should also have resigned, Mr Fairbairn said: "Bitterness is not in my nature. And it is for people to make their own decisions as to where their conscience is".

Mr Fairbairn also spoke of marvellous support from well wishers, including a present from one of the Great Train Robbers.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Exhibitions

The history of the traction engine: paintings by David Weston, Museum of Transport, Albert Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.

Joseph Crawhall, drawings and watercolours; and French watercolours and drawings; both at Glasgow Museum and Art Gallery, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, 10 to 5.

Photographer as Printmaker, Castle Museum, Nottingham, 10 to 4.45.

Lincolnshire at Work, an exhibition of Victorian and Edwardian photographs, Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln, 10 to 5.30.

Original Victorian Valentines, 1840-1880, Baylys Gallery, 8 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, 10 to 5.

Japanese festivals, an exhibition for children about Japanese life and traditions, Haggs Castle Museum, 100 St Andrew's Drive, Glasgow, 10 to 5.15.

The Great Japan Exhibition, Art of the Edo period, part II, Royal Academy, 10 to 6.

Talks; lectures

Hallstatt and La Tène: type sites for the Iron Age, by David Williams, British Museum, 11.30.

James Tissot, by Malcolm Warner, gallery 17, Tate Gallery, 1.

Shakespeare on Film by Martyn Auty, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, WC1, 6.15.

Sport in Kingston—local sports and games from the fourteenth century to the present, by Dr D. Robinson, Heritage Unit, Museum and Art Gallery, Fairfield West, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1.10.

Music

Early music network, Academy of Ancient Music: chamber recital, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park Bradford, 7.30.

Recital by Kari-Lise Ravnan, (cello), Richard Mapp, (piano), at St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham Street, EC2, 1.10.

Concert by the West Suffolk Youth Orchestra, St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds, 7.30.

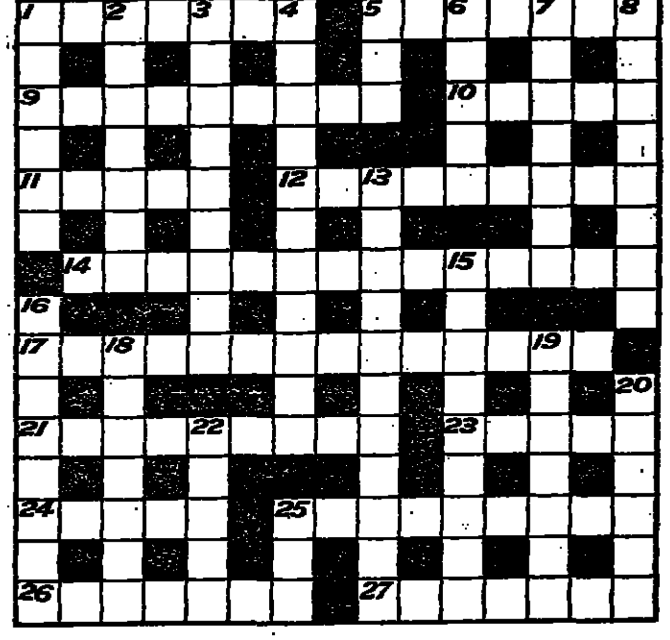
Auctions

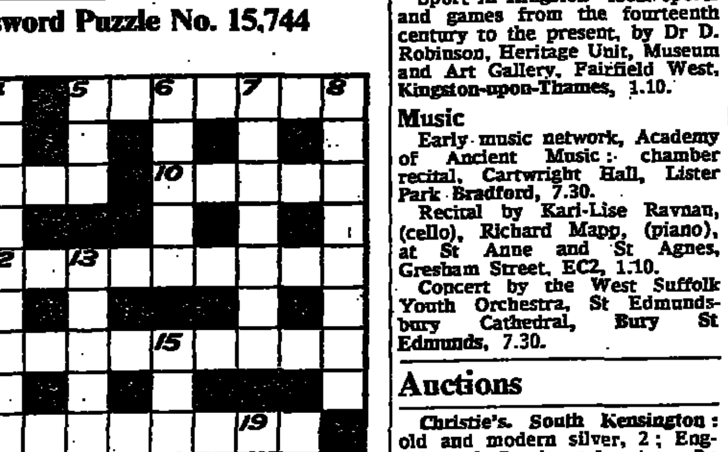
Christie's, South Kensington: old and modern silver, 2; English and Continental prints, 2; tribal art, 2. Phillips, Blenheim Street: furniture, carpets, objects, including ethnographica and scientific instruments, 11; watercolours, 11. Sotheby's, Bond Street: glass, 11 and 2.30.

Viewing

Bonhams, Montpelier Street: European oil paintings, 9-5. Christie's, King Street: Eastern textiles and carpets; 9-7; scientific instruments, clocks and watches, continental pictures, 19th and 20th century, 9-7. Phillips, Blenheim Street: furniture, carpets, works of art; clocks and watches; English and Continental ceramics and glass; scientific instruments, 9-4.30. Sotheby's, Bond Street: English porcelain, Old Master prints, modern British pictures; works of Art and modern prints, 9.30-4.30. Sotheby's, Belgravia: furniture, 9.30-4.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,744





ACROSS

1 A quicker drink than it sounds? (4,3)
5 Service on the bench (7)
9 Most books have one - Debrett has many (5,4)
10 Board after time as an aid to travellers (5)
11 Blues a number of these in a row (5)
12 One involved in a hold-up? (9)
14 They hope to meet with varying degrees of success (14)
17 Where footnote to account is drawing it mild (14)
21 Some talk of him in song (9)
23 This drink is too much (5)
24 Should be the end of a dry spell (5)
25 Little boy in the cold, where mine is (9)
26 He has lots in this condition (7)
27 Stories out of part of Bible relate to gifts (7)

DOWN

1 Seating put on part of the golf course (6)
2 Crazy Goon act takes shape (7)
3 Super-stars in the animal kingdom? (5,4)
4 Not taking the long view, as it were (4-7)
5 A small part in "Bitter Sweet" (3)
6 Proportion of allowance that's unfinished (5)
7 Tabitha as home-maker (7)
8 It's simply topping with eg pork (8)
13 Reproduction shown by winter sports casualty (7,4)
15 Not heeding the result of the brain drain? (9)
16 They should need no exhortation to take care (8)
18 Loaded with sugar or flour, this vessel (7)
19 It's material to make a girl enthusiastic (7)
20 Spirits affording light relief (6)
22 Bill Ray emulated Roscius (5)
25 About a mile to the river (3)

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 15,743 will appear next Saturday

Sporting fixtures

Football: Two fourth round FA Cup matches, one Scottish Cup game.

Racing: Meetings at Leicester (1.30) and Plumpton (1.45).

Sport on TV

BBC 2: 5.5 World Ski-ing Championships: The Ladies Combined Slalom from Haus.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond prizes, announced on Saturday, are:

£100,000, No 3VW 745393, the winner lives in Camden, north London; £50,000, No 8PW 880723 (overseas); £25,000, No 23RL 942018 (Belfast).

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on the new nuclear power programme.

Lords (2.30): Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, committee, third day.

Nature notes

The skylarks now singing over the fields are resident birds, but a complicated pattern of skylark migration is also beginning. Some birds that came here from Northern Europe in the autumn are starting to drift back across the North Sea, while others are returning to England across the Channel from a winter spent in the south of Europe. Woodlarks are also in song, but they are now rare birds in Britain, with probably only about 100 pairs remaining on heaths in the Southwest and Wales. At the tide-line on some parts of the east coast shorelarks gather to feed among the seaweed, very distinctive with their black and yellow faces.

Early leaves are showing: there are small shoots on the wild honeysuckle, and here and there on elder trees. By damp ditches, the first delicate leaves of cow parsley are spreading, and the young goose-grass is sticky to the touch. Hazel twigs glow pink in the sunshine: their pale yellow catkins and the tiny red stars of their female flowers are forming. Hazel is now generally known as a shrub, but in Scotland a few large, gnarled trees are found, perhaps similar to the hazel's ancestors.

D.J.M.

The pound

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Austria Sch	32.00	30.00
Belgium Fr	85.00	81.00
Canada $	2.33	2.24
Denmark Kr	14.80	14.10
Finland Mkk	8.73	8.28
France Fr	11.50	10.90
Germany DM	4.53	4.28
Greece Dr	124.00	115.00
Hongkong $	11.30	10.70
Ireland Pt	1.28	1.23
Italy Lir	2425.00	2325.00
Japan Yn	456.00	430.00
Netherland Gld	4.97	4.71
Norway Kr	11.54	10.94
Portugal Esc	132.50	124.50
South Africa Rd	2.04	1.89
Spain Pta	194.00	185.00
Switzerland Fr	3.63	3.41
USA $	1.94	1.87
Yugoslavia Dnr	105.00	98.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International.

London: The FT Index closed up 6.0 at 579.8 on Friday.

Anniversaries

Births: Edward Coke, jurist, Mileham, Norfolk, 1552; Auguste Blanqui, French revolutionary, 1805; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, Vienne, 1874. Deaths: René Descartes, Stockholm, 1650; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, London, 1851; George Cruikshank, London, 1878.

Church music

Southwark Cathedral: Today 1, Stephen Darlington (organ) 1.10 pm.

St John's, Smith Square: Today, 1, Concert by the London Sinfonietta, 7.30 pm; February 2, Lindsay String Quartet, 7.30 pm.

Chichester Cathedral: February 2, Recital by the pupils of Prebendal School, 1.10 pm.

St Paul's Cathedral: February 5, Michael Smith (organ) 12.30 pm.

Durham Cathedral: February 6, University Choral Concert, 7.30 pm.

New postal charges

Higher postage charges take effect today, when the following new tariffs will apply:

First class: Up to 60g, 15½p; up to 100g, 22p; up to 150g, 28½p; up to 200g, 35p; up to 250g, 42p; up to 300g, 49p; up to 350g, 56p; up to 400g, 64p; up to 450p, 72p; up to 500g, 80p; up to 750g, £1.18; up to 1kg, £1.57.

Second class: Up to 60g, 12½p; up to 100g, 16½p; up to 150g, 20½p; up to 200g, 26p; up to 250g, 32p; up to 200g, 38p; up to 350g, 44p; up to 400g, 50p; up to 450g, 56p; up to 500g, 62p; up to 750g, 94p.

The average increase on inland parcel post (national rates): also 9½ per cent. New national rates are: Up to 1kg, £1.20; 2kg, £1.57; 3kg, £1.90; 4kg, £2.10; 5kg, £2.25; 6kg, £2.40; 7kg, £2.55; 8kg, £2.70; 9kg, £2.80; 10kg, £2.90. Rates within the local area are 20p cheaper at each weight.

Air parcel charges are not being increased, but other overseas parcels will go up by an average of 11½ per cent.

Travel today

Pre-recorded travel information on Traveline—rail: 01-246 8030; road: 01-246 8031; sea: 01-246 8032; air: 01-246 8033.

Rail

Most British Rail services are expected to be back to normal today after Sunday's strike. Commuter services face minimal disruption but some rush hour cancellations may occur.

Roads

The North: A629: Roadworks on Keighley Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire; A533: Two-way traffic on one carriageway at Runcorn, Cheshire.

Scotland: M8: Only one lane open each way from junction 29, St James interchange to junction 30, Craigton interchange; A76: Temporary signals 4 miles north of Dumfries; A698: Temporary traffic signals at Kelso, Roxburghshire.

Information supplied by the AA.

Sea

Because of Sealink dispute, no Newhaven/Dieppe ferries operating. For special coaches to ports during rail disruption, call 01-828 4142 or 01-834 2345, or Sealink offices at ports.

The papers

The issue at stake in the rail dispute was one the British Rail Board could not afford to lose if the country was to have a modernized railway network in the future, The Observer comments. A new rostering system would end the archaic rigidity that belonged to the steam age and represent the first step by the drivers towards working methods more suited to the twentieth century.

The Sunday Times said union leaders were thoroughly misguided if they intended to carry through a campaign against Mr Norman Tebbit's Employment Bill to the point of defying the law itself. There was nothing in the proposals with which a well conducted union could not live. For the public the only question was whether the proposals went far enough.

Weather

A mild S-W airstream will cover all parts.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, Central S, E, Central N, NE England, Midlands, East Anglia: Mostly dry and rather cloudy, some sunny intervals; wind SW, light or moderate; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Generally cloudy, but some sunny intervals inland, coastal fog and drizzle in places; wind SW, moderate; max temp 10 or 11C (50 to 52F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: Generally cloudy, but some sunny intervals inland, coastal fog and drizzle in places; wind SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).

Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow: Mostly dry and rather cloudy, some sunny intervals; wind SW, moderate; max temp 12 to 14C (54 to 57F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: Mostly cloudy, occasional rain or drizzle; wind SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10 to 11C (50 to 52F).

Outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday: Dry and bright in many parts, but some rain in the N and W at times. Very mild.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel: Wind SW; light, increasing, mainly moderate. Sea, smooth becoming mainly slight. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind mainly S to SW, fresh or strong. Sea mainly rough.

Sun rises: 7.40 am. Sun sets: 4.50 pm. Moon rises: 11.2 am. Moon sets: 12.12 am. First Quarter, 2.28 pm

Lighting up time

London 5.20 pm to 7.8 am
Bristol 5.22 pm to 7.18 am
Edinburgh 5.15 pm to 7.36 am
Manchester 5.21 pm to 7.23 am
Penzance 5.46 pm to 7.25 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	c	9	48	Guernsey	c	9	48
Birmingham	s	11	52	Inverness	c	8	46
Blackpool	c	7	45	Jersey	c	11	52
Bristol	s	11	52	London	c	11	52
Cardiff	c	8	46	Manchester	c	9	48
Edinburgh	c	10	50	Newcastle	c	10	50
Glasgow	c	9	48	Ronaldsway	c	9	48

London

YESTERDAY
Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 12C, (54F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 8C, (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 78 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1029.1 millibars, rising.

SATURDAY
Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 11C, (52F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 10C, (50F). Humidity: 6 pm, 66 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm 0.4hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1022.2 millibars, rising.

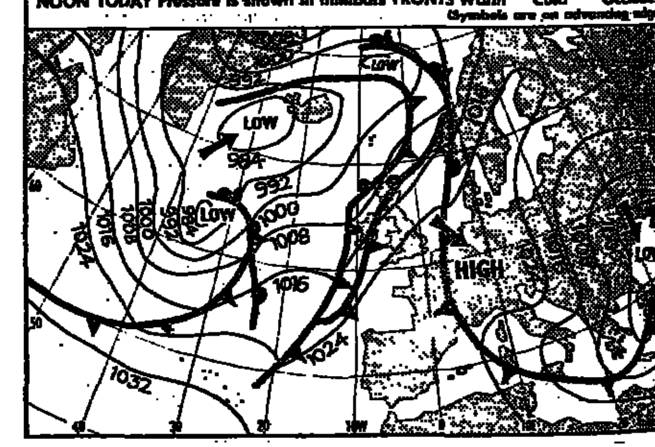
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

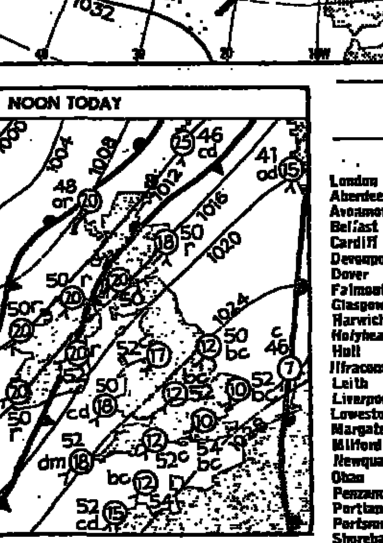
Satellite predictions

Figures give time of visibility, where rising, maximum elevation, and direction of setting. Asterisk denotes entering or leaving eclipse.

MANCHESTER: Cosmos 1220: 17.57-18.4; SSW; 45ESE; ENE and 19.40-19.43: W; 40NW; NW*. Cosmos 236R: (Feb 2) 6.26-6.29; WSW*; 30SSW; SSE; Agena DR: (Feb 2) 3.48-3.51: NNE; 15NNE; NE and 5.31-5.40: NNW; 30NNE; E. Seasat: 17.53-17.58: N; 15NNW; WNW. Aryabhata R: (Feb 2) 5.11-5.13: ESE*; 35ESE; E and 6.45-6.52: W; 55SW; ESE.

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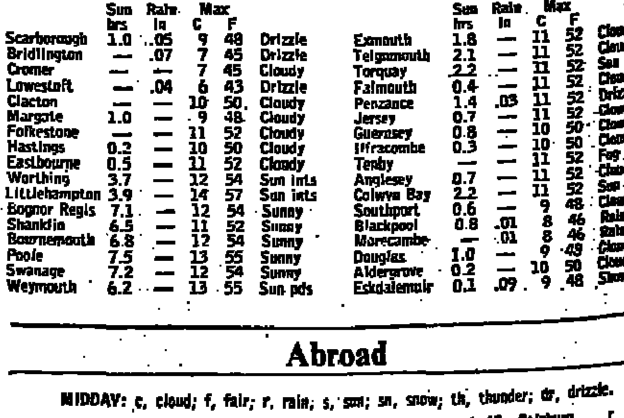


b—blue sky; bc—blue sky & cloud; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; prs—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberdeen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avonmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Belfast	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cardiff	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Devonport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Falmouth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Glasgow	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Holyhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ilfracombe	10.40	8.0	11.04	7.7
Leith	7.32	4.8	7.46	5.0
Liverpool	3.39	8.3	4.06	8.5
Lowestoft	1.45	2.3	2.46	2.1
Margate	4.12	4.5	5.01	4.2
Milford Haven	11.01	6.2	11.27	5.6
Newquay	9.59	6.2	10.25	5.9
Oban	10.31	3.4	10.35	3.1
Penzance	9.09	5.1	9.48	4.7
Portland	11.16	1.7	11.47	1.5
Portsmouth	4.03	4.3	4.19	4.1
Shoreham	3.31	5.7	3.57	5.4
Southampton	3.29	4.2	3.48	4.0
Swansea	10.59	8.3	11.26	7.9
Tees	8.39	4.6	8.47	4.8
Walton-on-Naze	3.59	3.9	4.44	3.7

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



Around Britain

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarborough	1.0	.05	9	48	Drizzle
Bridlington	—	.07	7	45	Drizzle
Cromer	—	—	7	45	Cloudy
Lowestoft	—	.04	6	43	Drizzle
Clacton	—	—	10	50	Cloudy
Margate	1.0	—	9	48	Cloudy
Folkestone	—	—	11	52	Cloudy
Hastings	0.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Eastbourne	0.5	—	11	52	Cloudy
Worthing	3.7	—	12	54	Sun ints
Littlehampton	3.9	—	14	57	Sun ints
Bognor Regis	7.1	—	12	54	Sunny
Shanklin	6.5	—	11	52	Sunny
Bournemouth	6.8	—	12	54	Sunny
Poole	7.5	—	13	55	Sunny
Swanage	7.2	—	12	54	Sunny
Weymouth	6.2	—	13	55	Sun pds
Exmouth	1.8	—	11	52	Cloudy
Teignmouth	2.1	—	11	52	Cloudy
Torquay	2.2	—	11	52	Sun ints
Falmouth	0.4	—	11	52	Cloudy
Penzance	1.4	.03	11	52	Drizzle
Jersey	0.7	—	11	52	Cloudy
Guernsey	0.8	—	10	50	Cloudy
Ilfracombe	0.3	—	10	50	Cloudy
Tenby	—	—	11	52	Fog
Anglesey	0.7	—	11	52	Cloudy
Colwyn Bay	2.2	—	11	52	Sun ints
Southport	0.6	—	9	48	Cloudy
Blackpool	0.8	.01	8	46	Rain
Morecambe	—	.01	8	46	Rain
Douglas	1.0	—	9	49	Cloudy
Aldergrove	0.2	—	10	50	Cloudy
Eskdalemuir	0.1	.09	9	48	Showers

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; th, thunder; dr, drizzle.

		C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	s	14	57	Cape Town	f	24	75
Akrotiri	c	13	55	Casablanca	f	16	61
Alexandria	c	16	61	Cologne	c	7	45
Algiers	s	17	63	Copenhagen	s	1	34
Amsterdam	s	7	45	Corfu	s	14	57
Athens	s	15	59	Dallas	f	3	37
Bahrain	s	21	70	Dublin	c	10	50
Barbados				Dubrovnik	s	12	54
Barcelona	s	13	55	Faro	s	16	61
Beirut	th	11	52	Florence	c	10	50
Belgrade	r	7	45	Frankfurt	f	5	41
Berlin	f	2	36	Funchal	f	20	68
Bermuda				Geneva	s	9	48
Biarritz	c	9	48	Gibraltar	s	18	64
Boulogne	c	7	45	Helsinki	sn	-3	27
Bordeaux	c	8	46	Innsbruck	r	7	45
Boston	c	4	39	Istanbul	c	6	43
Brussels	c	7	45	Johannesburg	th	18	64
Budapest	c	6	43	Las Palmas	s	21	70
Cairo				Lisbon	s	11	52
				Locarno	s	17	63
				Los Angeles	s	15	59

		C	F			C	F
Luxembourg	c	6	43	Salzburg	r	5	41
Madrid	s	9	48	Sao Paulo	f	27	81
Majorca	s	18	64	S Francisco	s	8	46
Malaga	s	15	59	Santiago			
Malta	r	15	59	Seoul	sn	-1	30
Miami	c	26	79	Singapore			
Milan	s	14	57	Stockholm	s	-9	16
Montreal	f	-11	12	Strasbourg	c	8	46
Moscow	sn	-6	21	Tangier	s	16	61
Munich	r	3	37	Tel Aviv	c	13	55
Nairobi	s	29	84	Tenerife	s	19	66
Naples	c	13	55	Tokyo	f	6	43
New York	c	4	39	Toronto	sn	-11	12
Nice	s	14	57	Tunis	s	15	59
Oslo	s	-1	30	Valencia	s	16	61
Ottawa				Vancouver	c	6	43
Paris	c	10	50	Venice	s	1	34
Prague	f	1	34	Vienna	f	3	37
Reykjavik	c	3	37	Warsaw	c	-2	28
Rhodes	s	13	55	Washington	dr	9	48
Riyadh				Zurich	f	6	43
Rome	s	13	55				

هكذا من الأصل